

Carlos Villanueva Abelairas awarded the XXIV International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia

Santiago de Compostela, 25 June 2020 – The jury of the XXIV International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia, which met online on past Tuesday, decide to award the honour to musician and musicologist Carlos Villanueva Abeleiras for his "prolific career in the study of the Jacobean culture and the music linked to the Camino de Santiago, as well as his relevant contribution to the project of building the instruments of the Portico de la Gloria" of the cathedral of the Galician capital.

Upon informing him of the decision, the award-winner declared that it was an honour to receive this recognition when he is "on the brink of retirement" and that he hopes to make most of it with the "intensity that the coming Holy Year will bring". In this sense, he explained that "as Full Professor of Music at the University of Santiago de Compostela and with a line of research aligned with the objectives of the Compostela Group of Universities", in 2021 he will try "to spread the interest in music on the Camino de Santiago and the instruments linked to the pilgrimage to some of the associated universities. All this following the methodological basis of the project of the instruments of the Portico de la Gloria, co-directed with Professor José López Calo, and with the support of the Vicerectorate for Culture of the USC and the network of collaborators of the Organistrum Group".

The award ceremony will be online too and it is scheduled for 21 September in the framework of the XXVI General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities, which this year will be organised by the University of Minho (Portugal). At this ceremony, xxx will receive a golden shell, the symbol of the Compostela Group of Universities, and a monetary prize of 6,000 euros gross amount.

Profile of the awardee

Carlos Villanueva Abelairas is a Full Professor of Music at the University of Santiago de Compostela since 2020. His first lines of research focused mainly on the performance of early music and medieval instruments, and later on music criticism, Spanish and Latin American music of the 20th century, music and exile, and music and identities.

Besides, his publications related to the instruments of the Portico de la Gloria at Santiago de Compostela Cathedral are a reference in international musicology and he was co-director of the project to build the instruments of this space, sponsored by Barrié de la Maza Foundation and developed between 1990 and 1994. With the aim of spreading this project internationally, he toured all over the world and made numerous recordings with the Chamber Group of the University of Santiago de Compostela, internationally recognized

for its specialization in Early Music. With this group, which he has been conducting since 1977, he recorded ten albums and contributed to the dissemination of the Spanish musical repertoire of the 12th and 17th centuries at an international level.

In his extensive literary production, the works *El Códice Calixtino y la música de su tiempo*, *Polifonía jacobea. Los villancicos al Apóstol de José de Vaquedano*, *El sonido de la piedra (Encuentro sobre instrumentos en el Camino de Santiago)*, the edition of the *Cancioneiro Musical de Galicia de Castro Sampedro e Folga* and the monograph on *Víctor Said Armesto. Unha vida e romance* stand out.

Carlos Villanueva also stands out for his work as a curator of exhibitions such as *Jesús Bal and Gay. Tientos y Silencios 1905-1993* or as scientific responsible in the project *Centenario Said Armesto (1914-2014)*.

Members of the jury 2020

The meeting of the jury of the XXIV International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia was chaired by the Regional Minister for Education, University and Professional Training of Xunta de Galicia, Carmen Pomar Tojo. The following authorities are also members of this jury:

- The General Secretary for Universities of the Xunta de Galicia, José Alberto Díez de Castro.
- The General Technical Secretary of the Regional Ministry for Education, University and Professional Training of Xunta de Galicia, Jesús Oitavén Barcala.
- The President of the Compostela Group of Universities, Marek Kręglewski.
- The Rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Antonio López Díaz.
- The Rector of the University of Salamanca (Spain), Ricardo Rivero Ortega.
- The Rector of the University of Malaga (Spain), José Ángel Narváez Bueno.

The Executive Secretary of the Compostela Group of Universities, María Teresa Carballeira Rivera, acted as a secretary to the jury.

International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia

The International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia, since its creation in 1997, has recognized individuals and institutions from different fields. In previous editions, the prize has recognized the work of personalities such as Jacques Santer (1997), Vaclav Havel (1998), Mohamed ElBaradei (2010), the College of Europa (2012) and Marcelino Oreja Aguirre (2017).

Compostela Group of Universities

The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) is a non-profit international organisation, recognized as an association of public benefit, which works for fostering cooperation and promoting dialogue in all areas of higher education. The CGU took its first steps in 1994 and since its creation, the network has grown to unite more than 60 universities from all over the world. All the pilgrims of the Compostela Group of Universities share the values of cooperation and integration developed around the Camino de Santiago.