

THE PAU CASALS FOUNDATION

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Presentation by MARTA CASALS ISTOMIN

Founder and Vice-President of the Pau Casals Foundation

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“Pau Casals is widely regarded as one of the greatest musicians of the 20th century as well as a devoted humanist and defender of freedom, justice and peace.

His international career began in Paris in 1899 and took him around the world. He spent the last 34 years of his life in exile, pining for his beloved Catalonia and his beach house at Sant Salvador in El Vendrell. During his exile, he was extraordinarily active with concerts benefiting Spanish and Catalan refugees who had fled the totalitarian regime to southern France and helping them in every possible way. With time, those activist efforts were complemented by his participation in festivals and master classes, and by conducting his oratorio El Pessebre (The Manger) in an international crusade for peace.

Pau Casals always hoped to return to his homeland, but when he reached his nineties he realized that this would probably never happen. It was then that he decided to shape his legacy by establishing a Foundation dedicated to the highest human and musical ideals to which he had devoted his life. His hope was that it would personify those human principles we hold so dear. His house and garden in San Salvador became a living museum –not a static exhibit so much as a dynamic institution that spurred study of the musical century in which he played so great a part–. It was also his dream to build an educational center for young people of his native country as well as from around the globe: one that sponsored artistic activities at the highest level and inspired a greater love of music and culture. Pau Casals created this Foundation as a symbol of hope, because he believed that music can contribute to a better world.

Since then, the mission of the Foundation –whose board of trustees consists of many distinguished individuals, including representatives from Catalonia’s hallmark institutions– has been to conserve and convey the Maestro’s work and ideas through significant projects and activities.”

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Legacy of Peace

“Pau Casals is one of the most universal names in Catalan culture, and one of the musicians most committed to the dignity of people. The cello and the baton were his weapons, and his extraordinary music is a treasure that will last over time.

The defense of peace, freedom and dignity of the people, were a vital constant. He helped thousands of Spanish exiles in refugee camps in the south of France, charity concerts for war victims, his international crusade against the nuclear arms race and his commitment to humanitarian initiatives. throughout an extraordinary biography of innovation and musical creation, as a cello performer, conductor and composer.

In 1972 we created the Pau Casals Foundation in Puerto Rico to maintain a link with his beloved land. The Foundation is the instrument to keep alive and spread its musical and humanistic legacy that is open to everyone. I encourage you to participate and collaborate with the Foundation's projects, and to visit the Pau Casals Museum: a place with a special force that excites and allows us to enjoy a unique experience, walking through its biography and its enormous legacy musical and humanistic, with music as an instrument to defend a better world.”

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See links of interest:

<https://www.2020.paucasals.org>

<http://www.paucasals.org/en/Introduccion>

International Award for Young Cellists:

<http://www.paucasals.org/en/Foundation-PAU-CASALS-Grants>

