

THE BOLIVIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA COMPETITION

On December 18th, 2014, Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) held the 2nd National Youth Orchestra Competition *Music to Grow* and the Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra of Oruro and Urubichá Youth Symphony respectively won the categories of Chamber and Symphony.

The Competition is an initiative of the [Corporación Andina de Fomento CAF](#) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Bolivia, the regional government of Santa Cruz, the Municipal Government of Santa Cruz, the Federation of Private Enterprises of Santa Cruz, the Business Council for Sustainable Development in Bolivia, the World Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America.

The Competition takes place in the program *Music to Grow* that CAF manages since 2000 to promote the use of music as an educational tool for children and youth. In particular, the Contest is organized to encourage and support youth orchestras in Bolivia forming a system of national musical training. The Competition, open to the orchestras of the country's nine departments, provides with a first selection of participants carried out by a jury of Bolivian senior music teachers. This initiative resulted also in the set-up of several concerts in different cities to stimulate the interest to this program.

The five pre-selected Orchestras for the award were composed by 196 musicians coming from the departments of Santa Cruz, Oruro and Tarija. In Santa Cruz, these five Orchestras were involved in an Orchestra workshop led by teachers from the Sistema Orchestra of Venezuela.

The Competition was concluded with a masterful concert of the five orchestras and the presentation of the winners, namely: Youth Symphony Orchestra of Urubichá and the Philharmonic of Oruro in the category of String Orchestra.

The [Sistema National System of Youth and Children Orchestras of Venezuela](#) has inspired over 40 countries in Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. Bolivia also decided to adopt this model of musical development and the support of the Andean Development Corporation and of all other institutions promoting this Competition in Bolivia will allow the growth of a national system of youth orchestras and achieve a great impact on the education of children.



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