



## **To Princess of Asturias Awards**

Geneva, the 23d of February 2021

### **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Dr. Luis De La Calle is one of the most exceptional innovators in the music world. His artistic work is a multifaceted integration of ancient eastern and western cultures in the fields of research, music education, performance, composition, the innovation of musical instruments and philanthropy. The United Nations has used his unique contributions to promote the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development goals as per the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. All his activities are part of an international network of high-level collaboration and commitment.

Dr. De La Calle has become acculturated to South American, Japanese and Indian cultures which are based on oral traditions (observation, listening, and imitation). He has successfully established original links between these oral traditions and the written traditions of western European culture. For the past three decades, his work has contributed innovative knowledge in:

- the playing techniques for wind instruments, as well as other instrumental families,
- designing and testing tools for teaching and learning music,
- conducting researches in music education, also in the area of fundamental skills development in children between the ages of 4 and 8 years old, with a specific focus on how music education impacts transversal learning with maths (e.g. multiplication with three digits) and languages; social-emotional intelligence and creativity. The successful development of these skills was measured through, the performance of different instruments while singing in ensembles composed by the child, where each composition includes lyrics in four different languages. Additionally, maths skills were assessed through the ability to perform percussion instruments,
- composition, by blending musical elements, styles, wisdom and artistic expressions from eastern and western cultures,
- developing new musical instruments.

Dr. De La Calle has created a lasting impact on international audiences over a long and illustrious career, by enriching and cultivating the human spirit, bringing him acclaim on stages and in conferences throughout the world.

Cross-cultural translation is one of the reasons for his success. His music borrows from complementary aesthetics and reflects the emotions of different peoples. His depth of understanding comes from having been deeply involved in these four cultures for more than 30 years. He has lived in these aforementioned countries throughout his life and studied under their topmost music masters. Through this cross-cultural translation, Dr. De La Calle developed a unique artistic expression that transcends historical issues and portrays an essential evolution of human consciousness from the gross to the subtle; from the material to the spiritual, and from the temporal to the eternal. Through this integrative approach, he demonstrates that art is a force with the power to express the individual's deep hankering for happiness, which is rooted in aesthetics.

Dr. De La Calle's unparalleled approach and profound understanding of the aesthetics of art have crowned him as an innovator and leading contributor to the music faculty. His achievements are as follows:

1. Dr. De La Calle has been a member of the research team on the Didactics of Arts and Movement (DAM) at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland, since 2012. Some of his notable contributions during this time are:
  - a. His Ph.D. dissertation in this field was an unprecedented contribution to the academic art community, investigating the music didactics of an ancient culture within a western context (research in music education and music performance).
  - b. In collaboration with our research team, Dr. De La Calle edited a book, (soon to be published) "Transmitting an ancestral culture at risk of disappearance" based on his Ph.D. dissertation. This book compares the innovative didactic characteristics of the oral tradition of ancient cultures with the western European culture, confirming that they share common didactic characteristics (emphasizing unity in diversity). The conclusion, is, therefore, that tradition is not a museum object but a living reality with a historical construct in constant transformation.
  - c. In recognition of the educational contribution from his Ph.D., Dr. De La Calle was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate Degree by the National University of Education of Peru. An official ceremony was held at the Parliament of Peru with the participation of authorities from the Peruvian government and the UN where Dr. De La Calle received this commendation.
  - d. His work has been disseminated in academic articles, published by the UN Special (the official magazine of the United Nations); the International Symposium of Psychology and Educational Sciences, *Vygotsky*, in Paris, France; the University of Geneva; the National University of Education of Peru; and has been used in lectures at international European symposiums and in prestigious universities in Chile, Peru, USA, Switzerland, India, Indonesia and Japan.

- e. He has guided Ph.D. candidates in music education.
2. Dr. De La Calle invented a musical instrument, the De La Calle *Quena* Flute TM, which represents the multicultural integration of ancient musical traditions of the world with the western European tradition. The De La Calle *Quena* Flute design combines the traditional quena head joint with the key mechanism of the European transverse flute's body. The quena is the pre-Incan Andean end-blown flute which has the same head joint as ancient flutes such as the *Shakuhachi* from Japan and *Xiao* from China. In comparison with the European transverse flute and the *quena*, the De La Calle *Quena* Flute contributes:
  - a. a wider variety of microtones and harmonics,
  - b. higher notes that are sharp and bright like the European transverse flute and the *quena*,
  - c. performs complex chromatic passages and many music styles blending eastern and western artistic expressions, by featuring the sound of ethnic flutes from around the world.

This was the first time in the history of music that a musician earned a university degree (recognized by Lund University in Sweden) based on his musical invention. Dr. De La Calle earned not one but two degrees, i.e. a bachelor's degree in performance and a master's degree in music education.

3. Dr. De La Calle's performance of his compositions on the De La Calle *Quena* Flute at the galas of the National Flute Associations in Sweden, USA, UK, and Australia, earned him official recognition as one of the world's most talented flautists. At these performances, he shared the stage with individuals such as Hubert Laws, Robert Aitken, Shashank Subramanyam, and others who are also recognised as some of the world's most talented flautists in western and non-western traditions. He was also recognized for his performances and teaching at the United Nations, UNESCO, and in prestigious auditoriums, theaters, and universities worldwide.
4. Dr. De La Calle has produced several solo albums that were released by multinational corporations like Sony Music and Columbia Records. These albums featured his compositions using the De La Calle *Quena* Flute as a soloist instrument. His latest solo album "Rainbow of Endless Love", was released worldwide in November 2020 by Sony Music Japan. In addition, Sony Music has produced 4 music videos to accompany the album, these videos are available on the official Sony Music YouTube Channel. This album was inspired by the Gita Govinda, a famous collection of Sanskrit lyrical poetries of a love story, in the eastern tradition. "Record Collectors Magazine", one of Japan's most prestigious and popular music magazines, nominated "Rainbow of Endless Love" together with albums by Elton John, Elvis Presley, Eric Clapton, Charlie Parker, Santana, Bruce Springsteen, AC / DC and Jimmy Hendricks as the best albums of 2020. One of Dr. De La Calle's main purposes in producing the "Rainbow of Endless Love" album was to demonstrate a sample of the folkloric styles of Peruvian Afro and Andean music researched in his Ph.D. and book in music didactics. All eight compositions, arrangements and performances in "Rainbow of Endless Love" were done by Dr. De La Calle.

5. The President of the Parliament of Peru, the Mayor of Lima and other mayors from the country, awarded Dr. De La Calle, due to the international achievements on the De La Calle Quena Flute, as a revolutionary multicultural musical instrument.
6. Dr. De La Calle's philanthropic works have inspired his artistic career. Since 1989 he has been constantly providing education and social services for needy children in Peru, and in recent years he has expanded his efforts to India and Indonesia as well. The Luis De La Calle Foundations in USA and Peru and his association "Wings to Learn: Empowering Children" in Switzerland, were established to promote education of the arts. This goal has been furthered through collaboration with the Florida Vedic College in USA; the National University of Education of Peru, and the Dharma Foundation in Spain-India.

Dr. De La Calle uses music from the aforementioned cultures as a wonderful tool to form a child's character, improve the transversal development of fundamental skills and to educate them about human values and spiritual principles. His lectures, concerts, and workshops worldwide have helped provide humanitarian aid to educational institutions and to needy hospitals in Peru (e.g. providing medical equipment, medicine containers, and financial aid) and provide free distribution of food. Through his many concerts in Japan, he helped foster relationship building between the governments of Japan and Peru which facilitated his humanitarian work in Peru.

Dr. De La Calle's future in the fields of innovation, music education, research, performance and composition is promising. He constantly seeks to expand his knowledge and experience and shares with others the aesthetic and evolutionary effects of art and creativity.

I warmly recommend Dr. Luis De La Calle as a candidate for The Princess of Asturias Awards.

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