

Information | 10. November 2017

Together for a better future

## Hilti Foundation project in Colombia earns accolades

**Two official honors, one from the Congress of the Republic of Colombia and the other from the city of Medellin, were recently awarded to the work performed by the Academia Filarmonica Iberoamericana, or Iberacademy, in Medellin, Colombia.**

The project provides young people coming from socially disadvantaged situations with a new perspective through music and accompanies them on a path to a life of self-determination. It was initiated at the suggestion of the Hilti Foundation as part of its primary emphasis to bring about "social change through music." A regional program established in the city of Medellin has made it possible for the academy, led by Colombian conductor Alejandro Posada, to provide young musicians with scholarships. This allows the students to study at a local university where they are trained at an internationally competitive level in regular master classes and orchestra projects. The study forms the basis for a master's study either in Europe or in the USA. The most important goal of this education, however, is to highlight alternative possibilities to the young musicians on how they can use music to contribute to social change within their own society while assuming corresponding responsibility.

A second, international pillar of Iberacademy is its linkage to other programs in Latin America and their support in the ongoing training of instructors and the most talented of the young musicians. These possibilities simply don't exist within Colombia. An integral model - in cooperation with the New World Symphony, in Miami, the der Mozarteum Foundation, in Salzburg, and with the participation of numerous internationally renowned musicians - is designed to make comprehensive training possible while also promoting awareness for musical quality and humane values. This is based on cooperation and mutual responsibility. Young musicians from Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua are meeting this week in Medellin for a week of study focusing on theoretical and practical training formats.

For the city of Medellin and the Colombian government this program is a significant contribution for successfully developing the country's younger generation. The only way to solve the country's social problems and the challenges faced by young people is to use a common approach that includes a high level of quality consciousness, said Colombian Congressman Federico Hoyos and Medellin Mayor Federico Gutiérrez, during the presentation of the award to head of the Iberacademy project, Alejandro Posada. The special contribution of the Hilti Foundation is primarily represented by its commitment, which exemplifies a comprehensive approach and

sustainable contribution to showing the youth of Colombia that there is a better future.

The Iberacademy Orchestra will undertake its first tour to Europe in March 2018, playing concerts in Winterthur, Lucerne, Vaduz, Salzburg and Vienna.



**Official honour from the Congress of the Republic of Colombia to the Hilti Foundation Project Iberacademy:**

(from left to right) Maria Helena Tamayo-Tombon and Head of Project Alejandro Posada with Congressman Federico Hoyos, Christine Rhomberg Managing Director Hilti Foundation and Pedro Fajardo, CEO of Hilti Colombia.



**Official honour from the city of Medellin the Hilti Foundation Project Iberacademy:**

Head of Project Alejandro Posada and Maria Helena Tamayo-Tombon, together with Federico Gutiérrez, Mayor of Medellin (right) and Christine Rhomberg, Managing Director of the Hilti Foundation (left).

**The Hilti Foundation**

The Hilti Foundation was established in 1996 as a charitable organization by the Martin Hilti Family Trust. Since 2007, the Hilti Foundation has been a joint institution of the Martin Hilti Family Trust and the Hilti Group, which contributes two percent of the annual consolidated earnings to the Foundation's budget. Our slogan „We build a better future“ underlines the fact that the Foundation supports activities and projects focusing on social development, education and science around the globe. The Hilti Foundation wants to empower people to lead a better, autonomous and independent life.

Contact: Isabel Fehr, Communications, [isabel.fehr@hilti.com](mailto:isabel.fehr@hilti.com), T +423 234 21 99