



INM
INSTITUTO
NACIONAL
DE LA MÚSICA

GENERAL INFORMATION

esencial
**COSTA
RICA**



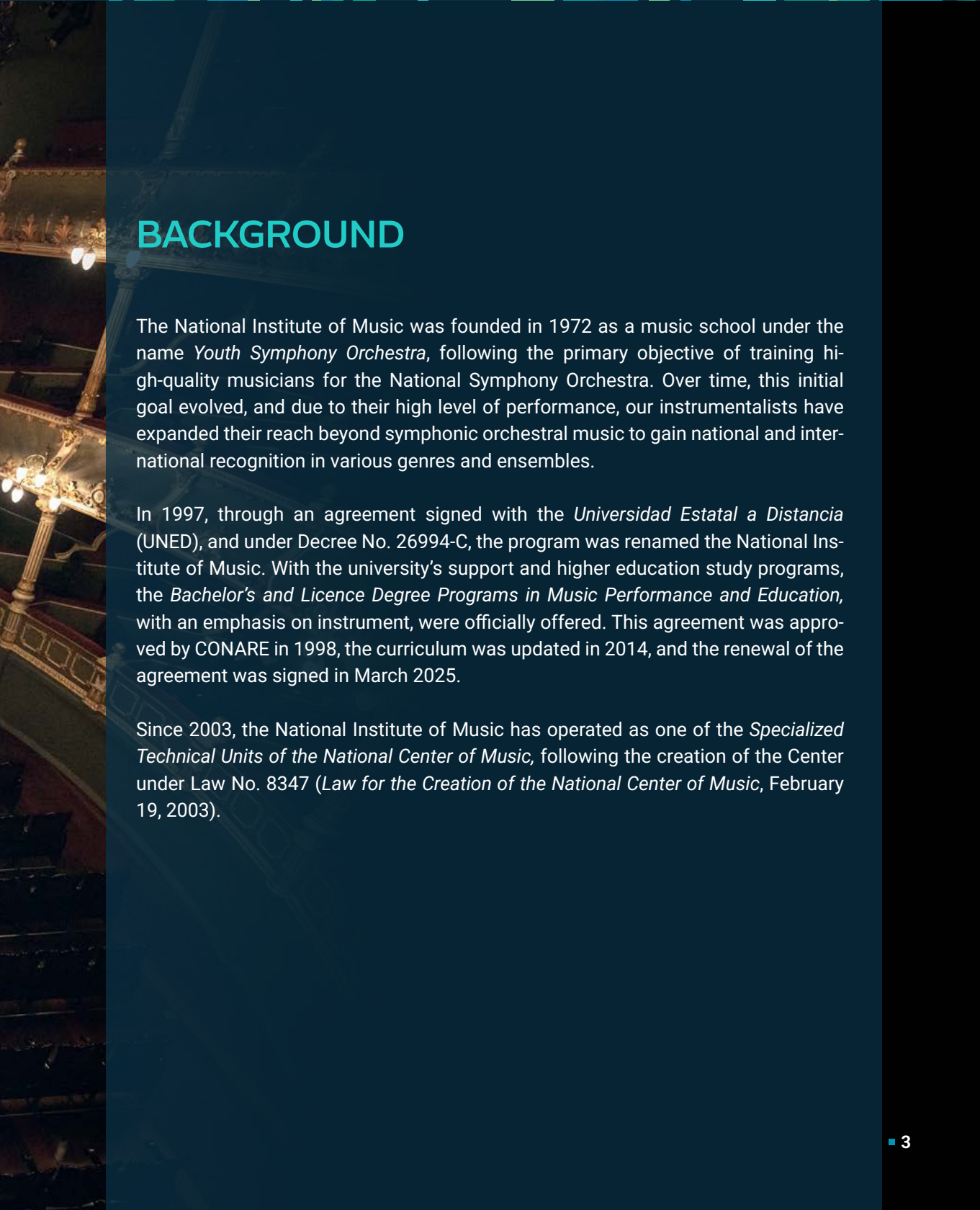
MINISTERIO DE
CULTURA Y JUVENTUD

GOBIERNO
DE COSTA RICA

CENTRO NACIONAL
DE LA MÚSICA

INSTITUTO NACIONAL
DE LA MÚSICA





BACKGROUND

The National Institute of Music was founded in 1972 as a music school under the name *Youth Symphony Orchestra*, following the primary objective of training high-quality musicians for the National Symphony Orchestra. Over time, this initial goal evolved, and due to their high level of performance, our instrumentalists have expanded their reach beyond symphonic orchestral music to gain national and international recognition in various genres and ensembles.

In 1997, through an agreement signed with the *Universidad Estatal a Distancia* (UNED), and under Decree No. 26994-C, the program was renamed the National Institute of Music. With the university's support and higher education study programs, the *Bachelor's and Licence Degree Programs in Music Performance and Education*, with an emphasis on instrument, were officially offered. This agreement was approved by CONARE in 1998, the curriculum was updated in 2014, and the renewal of the agreement was signed in March 2025.

Since 2003, the National Institute of Music has operated as one of the *Specialized Technical Units of the National Center of Music*, following the creation of the Center under Law No. 8347 (*Law for the Creation of the National Center of Music*, February 19, 2003).



MISSION:

The mission of the National Institute of Music is to contribute to the development, strengthening, teaching, and dissemination of the musical arts in all their forms.

VISION:

The vision of the National Institute of Music is to contribute to the cultural development and enrichment of the country, and to hold a leading position in the national and international musical landscape. The institution seeks out musical talent and provides them with a high-level professional musical education.



DESCRIPTION:

Students at the National Institute of Music range in age from 4 to 25 years old, pursuing studies from the Introductory Level up to the University Level.

Depending on their age and aptitude assessments, children begin their studies in the Introductory Programs. Upon completing each program, students choose an orchestral instrument (violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, or percussion). They then take an audition to determine their aptitude and suitability for the chosen instrument. Once the audition is passed, students are admitted into the formal instrumental study program.

Additionally, the Institute offers an annual opportunity for children and young people with prior musical knowledge and experience in playing an instrument to apply for admission through the *Entrance Process for Youth with Musical Knowledge*.

Each instrumental program includes preparatory, elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. In the first three levels, courses are annual. Starting from the advanced level—considered the University Level—courses are semester-based and sequential, with each subject serving as a prerequisite for the next. At this stage, both theoretical (musical techniques) and practical (instrumental and ensemble) courses are part of the degree program offered in agreement with UNED.

Throughout the learning process, from Preparatory to Advanced Level, students receive classes in instrument, music reading and theory (solfège from Preparatory to Intermediate Level, and advanced theoretical courses at the University Level), and participate in various ensembles and instrumental groups.

Upon completing the University Level, students may earn academic degrees of Bachelor's and Licentiate in Music.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

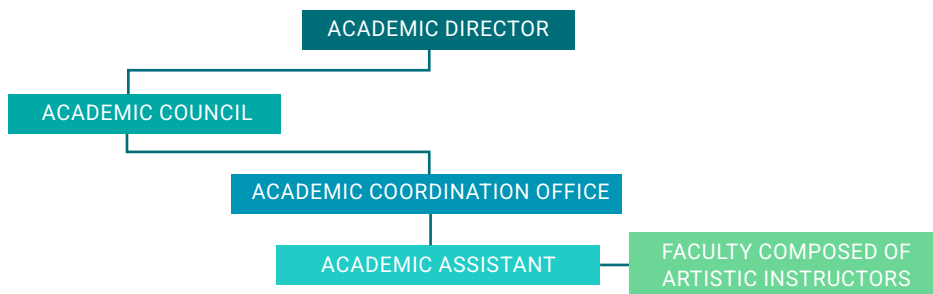
ORGANIZATION, PROGRAMS, AND LEVELS



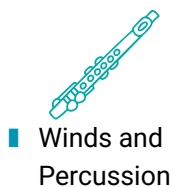


ORGANIZATION:

To carry out its core mission, the National Institute of Music is led by :



The Institute is structured into four departments, each focused strictly on teaching functions:





Each department is made up of artistic instructors, who elect a Department Head from among their members.

The Strings, Winds and Percussion, and Ensembles departments are dedicated to instrumental performance instruction and offer the following academic levels:



■ Introductory Level.



■ Preparatory Level.



■ Elementary Level.



■ Intermediate Level.



■ Advanced
(University) Level.

To support group instrumental practice, the National Institute of Music offers the following ensembles, according to the students' academic level:



■ Children's
Symphony
Orchestra



■ Intermediate
Symphony
Orchestra



■ Youth
Symphony
Orchestra



■ Elementary
Symphonic
Band



■ Intermediate
Symphonic
Band



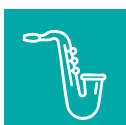
■ Youth
Symphonic
Band



■ Preparatory
Camerata



■ Percussion
Ensemble



■ Saxophone
Ensemble



■ Flute
Ensemble



■ Chamber Groups
for Strings, Winds,
Woodwinds, and Mixed
Ensembles

These groups rehearse once or twice a week and also engage in sectional rehearsals by instrument as part of their training. The ensembles perform in the following concert formats:

a) Official Concerts: This concert season consists of performances held in theaters or auditoriums throughout the country.

b) Educational Institution Concerts: The primary goal of these concerts is to perform in elementary and secondary schools to foster an appreciation for classical music among children and young people.

c) Cultural Outreach Concerts: These concerts are performed mainly in churches, community centers, public squares, parks, state or private institutions, factories, and similar venues, with the aim of offering musical activities that promote education, interest, and appreciation for classical music among diverse communities.





**INTRODUCTORY
PROGRAMS
FOR PRESCHOOL
AND SCHOOL-AGED
CHILDREN**



“CUERDITAS MUSICALES” PROGRAM

The *Cuerditas Musicales* Program is part of the introductory level and is aimed at preschool-aged children, introducing them to music through a musical instrument—violin or cello. Additionally, the program serves as a “talent incubator” to identify and nurture young musicians who may later become part of the institution’s formal training programs.

The program consists of eight semesters for violin or six semesters for cello, with weekly group classes (one hour each). During the final two semesters, students also receive individual instrument lessons, solfège classes, and string ensemble practice. Children must attend classes accompanied by an adult, who is expected to support and monitor their progress at home.

Through playful activities and the practice of basic instrumental techniques, *Cuerditas Musicales* helps children develop various musical skills, such as: melodic ear training, pitch accuracy, rhythm, basic music reading, and music appreciation. The program also supports the development of fine motor skills and fosters values like discipline, consistency, and responsibility.

Courses are taught by music professionals who specialize in the specific instruments offered and have experience working within this program.

Throughout the year, students perform in concerts or recitals both within and outside the National Institute of Music.

The core idea of this program is for children to become active protagonists of their educational journey. The goal is not only to nurture excellent musicians but above all, to contribute to the development of well-rounded human beings.





RECORDER OR CHOIR PROGRAM

This program is designed for children and youth aged 7 to 15 with no prior musical knowledge. Admission is through enrollment, with age being the only requirement.

The Introductory Recorder or Choir Program lasts two years and provides instruction in basic music reading, aural skills (melodic and rhythmic), basic performance techniques, and ensemble experience through the following courses: Solfège, Recorder, and Choir Workshop. In addition to developing musical talent, students are expected to show interest, commitment, discipline, and responsibility in their musical studies.

Upon completing the program, students may audition on three symphonic instruments of their choice. Those who pass the audition are admitted to the Preparatory Instrument Level.



INTRODUCTORY INSTRUMENT PROGRAM

This program introduces children and youth to the world of music through a musical instrument, combining instrumental practice with basic music theory and reading skills.

It lasts one academic year. Students who successfully complete the enrolled courses (solfège and instrument) may continue to the Preparatory Instrument Level, where they may gradually begin to participate in ensemble groups (orchestras and bands).

Admission requires meeting the minimum age requirement for the chosen instrument and passing an aptitude test, which evaluates aspects such as melodic ear, coordination, rhythmic ability, and physical suitability for the instrument (e.g., embouchure, arm length, height, etc.).

Courses in this program are annual, divided into two semesters.



PROGRAM FOR YOUTH WITH MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE

This program is designed for young musicians who have prior training from other institutions (e.g., SINEM, municipal schools, music academies, or private lessons), providing them the opportunity to join the Institute's permanent instrumental programs, with the aim of pursuing professional-level music education.

Applicants must:



Register during designated periods



Take an aptitude test in their instrument



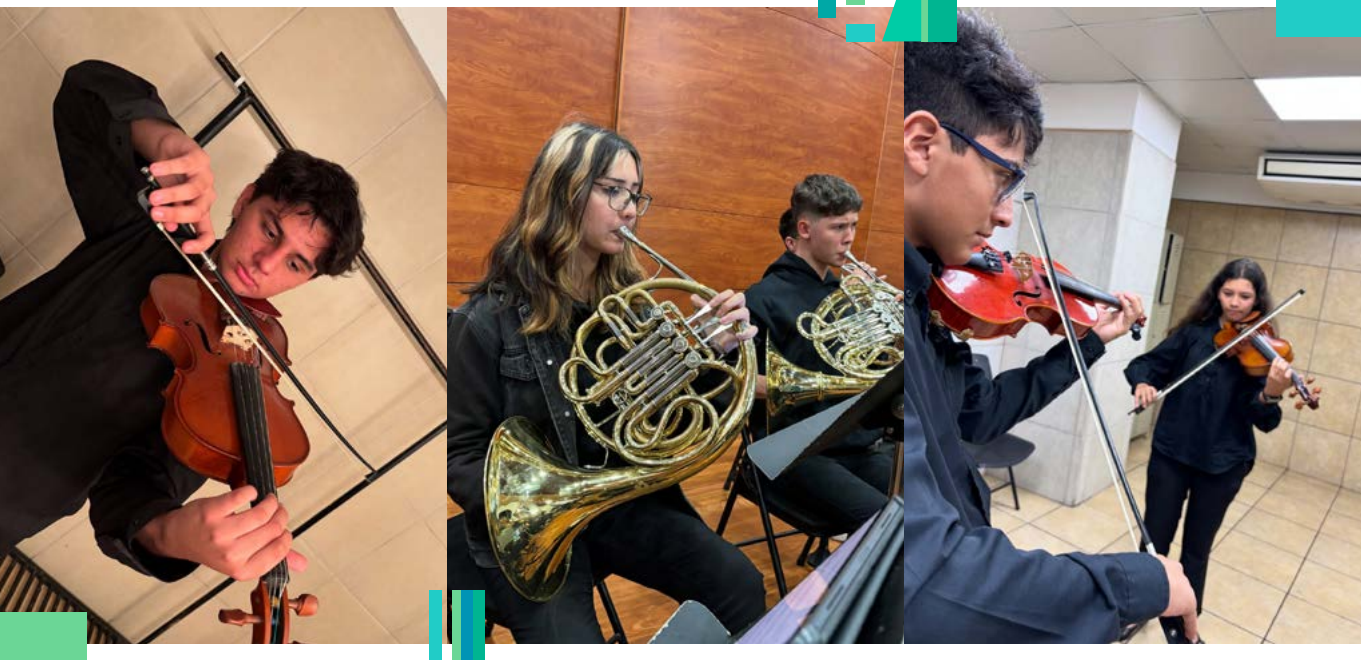
Evaluation in music theory and language

Those who pass the admission tests and for whom there are available spaces in the corresponding instrument departments will be admitted into the Program for Youth with Musical Knowledge.

This program lasts one year and includes the following courses: instrument, music language, and ensemble workshop (orchestra or band, depending on the instrument and the evaluation committee's recommendation).

At the end of the program, students must take an entrance exam to join the Institute's permanent instrumental programs. This exam includes Music Language and Instrument components. If they pass, their instrument level, solfège level, and ensemble placement for the next academic year will be determined.

If a student fails the final exams or any enrolled course, they may not continue at the Institute.





PREPARATORY LEVEL IN INSTRUMENT

This level aims to develop students' abilities in the instrument most suited to their physical and musical aptitudes. Students must demonstrate mastery of basic instrumental techniques. Depending on the difficulty of the instrument, this level may last from one to five years.

Students also receive solfège classes and participate in preparatory ensemble groups.

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

At this level, students are prepared to interpret moderately complex musical works. They are expected to master elementary-level music theory and instrumental performance.

Students continue with solfège classes and participate in elementary-level ensembles.



INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

This level focuses on preparing students to perform more challenging musical works. Students must demonstrate general mastery of music theory and performance, at a semi-professional level.

They continue taking solfège classes and participate in intermediate-level ensembles.



UNIVERSITY LEVEL

This level prepares students to perform highly complex musical works, demonstrating professional-level mastery of music theory, harmony, counterpoint, analysis, and instrumental technique.

It includes the courses offered in the Bachelor's Degree Program in Music Performance and Education with an Emphasis in Instrument, taught in agreement with UNED (Universidad Estatal a Distancia).

The study plan can be found at:
Bachelor's Degree Program – UNED

LICENTIATE LEVEL

This level aims to prepare students to perform at the highest professional standards, demonstrating complete mastery of all areas of university-level studies and instrumental performance.

It includes the courses outlined in the Licentiate Degree Program in Music Performance and Education with an Emphasis in Instrument, also offered in agreement with UNED.

The study plan can be found at:
Licentiate Degree Program – UNED

Important Notes:

- Courses offered at the National Institute of Music are semester-based, except for Fundamentals of Instrumentation and Orchestration, which is annual.
- UNED courses are quarterly, except for research and graduation project courses, which are semester-based.
- For more information, visit: www.uned.ac.cr





REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

To enroll a student from abroad in any of the Institute's programs or levels, it is mandatory to meet both the general and specific admission requirements (entrance exam, age, etc.) according to the desired program or level.

In addition, the following documents must be submitted to the administration of the National Institute of Music:



A. Student visa, or Temporary Student Permit, or Permanent Residency, issued by the General Directorate of Immigration and Foreign Affairs.



B. Copy of a valid passport.



C. Payment of enrollment fees and tuition, as applicable to the program, level, or academic term.



D. University Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance, only for those applying to the Licentiate level.

PRICES AND SCHOLARSHIP:

1) First semester

Program	Tuition Per Semester	Enrollment Fee	I Payment (40%)	II Payment (60%) due 17/05/2024
Musical strings for kids	₺140,000.00	₺15,000.00	₺56,000.00	₺84,000.00
Introductory	₺115,000.00	₺15,000.00	₺46,000.00	₺69,000.00
Preparatory	₺115,000.00	₺15,000.00	₺46,000.00	₺69,000.00
Elementary	₺105,000.00	₺15,000.00	₺42,000.00	₺63,000.00
Intermediate	₺95,000.00	₺15,000.00	₺38,000.00	₺57,000.00
University Level	₺110,000.00	₺15,000.00	₺44,000.00	₺66,000.00

1) Second semester

Program	Tuition Per Semester	I Payment (50%) due 19/07/2025	II Payment (50%) due 18/10/2025
Musical strings	₺140,000.00	₺70,000.00	₺70,000.00
Introductory	₺115,000.00	₺57,500.00	₺57,500.00
Preparatory	₺115,000.00	₺57,500.00	₺57,500.00
Elementary	₺105,000.00	₺52,500.00	₺52,500.00
Intermediate	₺95,000.00	₺47,500.00	₺47,500.00
University Level	₺110,000.00	₺55,000.00	₺55,000.00



TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS:

Assistant Hours Scholarship

100% coverage: Must complete 4 hours of assistant work per week.

50% Coverage Scholarship: Must complete 2 hours of assistant work per week.

25% Coverage Scholarship: Must complete 1 hour of assistant work per week.

In all cases, the enrollment fee must be paid, and the discount will be applied to tuition payments.

Assistant work:

- Band assistant
- Orchestra assistant
- Instrument maintenance



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