MUSICAL SOCIETIES IN THE KEY OF comic

The musical family

Paco Roca
A project by the Federación de Sociedades Musicales de la Comunitat Valenciana (Valencian Federation of Musical Societies)

In conjunction with: Institut Valencià de Cultura and Consell Escolar de la Comunitat Valenciana.

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NO WAY, MOM. I DON'T KNOW WHERE ALL THIS STUFF CAME FROM.

I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHY WE BROUGHT HALF THESE THINGS.

WELL, THE JOB I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED IN THE HEALTH CENTRE IS REALLY GREAT. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE, AND VERY PEACEFUL.

THE TIME I USED TO WASTE LOOKING FOR A PARKING SPACE, YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN. WE PARRIED RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR FRONT DOOR.

WELL, SHE'S A BIT DOWN. SHE CAN'T SEE HER OLD FRIENDS, AND YOU KNOW HOW HARD SHE FINDS IT TO MAKE NEW ONES.

AND SABRINA, HOW'S SHE HANDLING THE CHANGE?

WHEN SHE'S NOT AT SCHOOL, SHE SPENDS THE DAY IN HER ROOM.

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE OUT AND ABOUT, SWIMMING IN THE RIVER WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

SABRINA?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NOTHING, LISTENING TO MUSIC.

GRANDPA? COME IN.
Don't you have any friends here? What about your classmates?

I don't like any of them.

But I have nothing in common with them.

I don't believe that.

Do you still play the clarinet?

Listen...

No, well, hardly ever.

Why not? You love music.

I don't know.

You know I was born in a village like this one?

Back then there weren't many opportunities in the village and my parents decided to move to the city.

I was about your age and I also felt sad and out of place.

At home there was an old recorder and I started practicing with it.

As my father could see I liked it, one day he took me to a music society in our neighbourhood.

And you learned to play the saxophone there?

That's right.

Do you remember Robert and James?

Your retired friends you have lunch with?

A long time ago.
I met them in the society and, as you see, we're still doing. I traveled a lot with the band. At that time it wasn't easy to leave your province, but we toured half of Spain.

We didn't just visit the Fallas festival, but also Moors and Christians, the St. John's Night Romps in Alicante and the Madalena festival in Cartagena, and Easter Week in almost the whole of Spain. We don't miss a single one!

I know all the traditional festivals!
Lunch is on the table!

I know, right? Did I ever tell you that I met your grandmother when playing at her village festival?

I won her heart with my music.

Promise me you'll continue to play the clarinet.

All right, Grandpa...

But you have to tell me your fantasy version of how you met Grandma.

What?

What do you mean fantasy? What's your grandmother told you?
IS THAT CLARINET YOURS?

I, I...
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY IT OR WHAT?

HA HA HA!
I'M SORRY.
MY FRIENDS SAY I'M VERY AGGRESSIVE WHEN I SPEAK.

SARINA

MY NAME'S CAMILA, WHAT'S YOURS?

DO YOU PLAY THE CLARINET?

WELL, A LITTLE

GREAT. WE NEED ONE IN THE BAND, AND YOU'D BE FANTASTIC.

I NO... PERHAPS ANOTHER DAY.

COME AND I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
DID YOU BRING WARM CLOTHES? BECAUSE IT'S FREEZING ONCE THE SUN GOES DOWN HERE.

BUT THE AREA IS SO BEAUTIFUL. AND AS YOU ENJOY WALKING, YOU'LL LOVE IT.

AND SABINA?

I GUESS...

IN HER ROOM...

TOC TOC...

GRANDPA!

HA HA HA! NOOO... PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SHUT IN HERE SINCE THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER.

HA HA HA! I HAVE TO PRACTICE.

PRACTICE WHAT?

DON'T MUM TELL YOU?

I'M IN THE VILLAGE BAND, LIKE YOU. REALLY?

AND THERE'S AN OLD GUY LIKE YOU WHO IS AMAZING ON THE CELLO.

ALEX PLAYS THE PERCUSSION.

MARTA THE SAX.

CAMILA THE TUBA.

MELISA THE FLUTE.

FELIPE THE TROMBONE.

AND DID YOU KNOW THAT ON SAINT CECELIA'S THE WHOLE BAND CAME FOR ME, HERE, AT HOME?

OF COURSE, IT'S THE TRADITION WHEN A MUSICIAN LEAVES THE BAND.

I CAUGHT IT OFF CAMILA. SHE HAS ASPERGER'S AND ALWAYS SAYS WHAT SHE THINKS. YOU'LL MEET HER SOME TIME. SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND.

HA, HA, HA... TOO FUNNY.
I was really nervous...

They're here.

We had a street parade and went around picking up the new members of the band.

Because Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of all musicians.

I've learned a lot about bands and the Valencian Federation of Musical Societies.

Of course!

Listen, Grandpa! We're a movement that is found throughout the region of Valencia.

Do you want me to tell you about it?

What are you looking for?

There are 550 music societies more than there are towns.

In our region we have music from north to south, inland and on the coast.

The music societies and bands are the main cultural movement in the region of Valencia.

Many societies are 100 or 200 years old.

It is an artistic, educational and social movement, unique in the world.

Our educational model is a leading example both here and abroad.

Because each society has its own school.

And there are so many of us! 40,000 musicians, 60,000 students, 200,000 members, over 1,000 bands, 200 orchestras...
AND THEY ARE NOT JUST MADE UP OF MUSICIANS, BUT PEOPLE WITH PRINCIPLES

THE BAND IS THE FAMILY IN WHICH YOU GROW AS A PERSON.

MUSICAL TALENT IS FOSTERED FROM A YOUNG AGE. THAT'S WHY THERE ARE SO MANY MUSICIANS FROM HERE IN THE BEST INTERNATIONAL GROUPS.

AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS SHARE THE SAME PASSION FOR MUSIC AND WE SHARE IT WITH SOCIETY.

PLAS PLAS

AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THROUGH THE FEDERATION WE'RE GOING TO TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL WIND BAND CONTEST 'CITY OF VALENCIA' AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO THE NETHERLANDS.

WELL, I'M GOING TO HAVE A FIT!

CALM DOWN, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A FIT!

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR WHAT I'M REHEARSING?

IT'S A PIECE I KNOW. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PIECE WE PLAYED IN MY BAND. I KNOW IT BY HEART.

Really?

OHH!

LET ME GET MY SAX IN THE CAR AND WE CAN PLAY IT TOGETHER.

THAT WOULD BE GREAT, GRANDPA.
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