

El Musical Theatre

What at first had its beginnings as a cinema called "El Patronato", "El Musical" or "El Tívoli", today is a theatre called "Teatre El Musical".

The building is located in the Plaza del Rosario, next to the path that connected Canyameler with Vilanova del Grao and ended at the Atarazanas; and owes its name to its origin as the headquarters of the Patronato Musical de Poble Nou de la Mar. This was founded in 1880 by Father Luis Navarro and Maestro Vicente Ballester Fandos, as a cultural society. The new society was installed for rent on March 12, 1903 in premises located next to the church of the Rosary and it is in this place where it had its first official headquarters. It was the oldest musical society in València.

In 1923 the members bought a warehouse and an adjoining house in the Plaza del Rosario, on which they built their new headquarters based on a project designed by the architect Víctor Gosálvez; the building was inaugurated in 1929. The original façade responded to an eclectic style typical of the time, it was designed symmetrically with respect to the central entrance to the lobby, with two entrances, one on each side, of lower rank. On the upper floor there was a central bay window in the form of a semicircular arch, flanked by two balconies crowned with a classical pediment. It combined the baluster parapet of the central opening with the iron railings of the balconies. An austere parapet topped the building.

Due to the high cost of the construction of the new headquarters and due to a series of disagreements in its jurisdiction, in 1926 it was separated from the same, emerging from it a group of musicians who created the "Sociedad Musical Unión de Pescadores" (still active). In 1932, the Patronage had to be dissolved and from its ashes arose the Ateneo Musical del Puerto de Valencia. It was in the same year in which, due to an important economic debt, the society's assets were put up for auction. Finally, in May 1933 the Patronato Musical de Pueblo Nuevo de Mar was officially dissolved.

After the Civil War (1936-1939), the former headquarters of the Patronato Musical was reopened as a theatre-cinema, under the name of "El Musical" cinema. This activity continued until 1974, when it closed permanently. When the cinema closed, the building fell into a state of abandonment and degradation until the City Council, the new owner of the building, decided to create a cultural and performing arts center. The architect Eduardo de Miguel Arbonés reported the ruinous state of the building, dictating that only the facade should be maintained and the rest of the building demolished. However, far from maintaining the historic façade, he intervened in it in an original way, joining the two central openings, the door and the semicircular arched window of the upper floor, forming a large access door 11 meters high, creating what is currently considered the highest door in Valencia. On the lintel of the door is labeled "EL MUSICAL". The project is dated 1999, while the construction period is established in 2003.

Inside we find a civic center, cafeteria and a hall with more than 400 seats for uses such as theatre, dance, concerts, cinema, conferences or congresses.



Facade of the Theatre when it was a movie theatre. Source: <http://www.jdiezarnal.com/valenciateatroelmusicalantigua01.jpg>



The theatre in a state of neglect.

Source: <http://www.jdiezarnal.com/valenciateatroelmusicalabandonado01.jpg>

—En el Cabañal se inauguró anteanoche el nuevo domicilio de la Sociedad Patronato Musical del indicado poblado. Con tal motivo se organizó una amenísima velada musical, en la que tomó parte la laureada música de la misma, que tan acertadamente dirige el maestro Borrero. A dicho acto concurrió el eminente maestro Giner, que fué obsequiado con un banquete en Miramar por la junta directiva del Patronato. Terminado éste, dirigióse á la casa social, donde se celebró el concierto, ejecutando la banda el pasodoble “¡Viva Giner!”, sinfonía de la ópera *Tosca*, preludio de la ópera *Sagunto*, que fué repetido, dirigiendo la segunda vez el Sr. Giner, “Escenas fantásticas”, poema del maestro Borrero, premiado en Oporto, y un alegre pasodoble final.

La velada terminó con un elocuente discurso del maestro Giner alentando á todos para el estudio, y otro de gracias pronunciado por el vicepresidente de la Sociedad, D. Nicolás Fayos.

News about the inauguration of the Musical Society. Source: Las Provincias: Valencia newspaper, March 14, 1903 (page 2).