

Formentera's school of music and dance began the 2017-2018 academic year last week with roughly 320 students. Courses at the centre, overseen by a 13-person staff of ten music and three dance instructors, take place at both the basic, or “elementary,” and non-standardised professional level.

The school offers a certificate programme at the elementary level in transverse flute, guitar, piano, clarinet and trumpet. Other courses of study do not lead to certification (called *no reglats*) and include introduction to music for five- to seven-year-olds and traditional music workshops, while professional training is also available for students as they move beyond the basic level. Similar non-certificate classes are offered for students learning band instruments like piccolo, saxophone, French horn and tuba.

Novice dancers aged three to seven can hone their skills with introductory classes. The *Escola de Dansa*
, or "School of Dance," also offers certificate-track learning (elementary dance, devised for children eight and up considering professional careers in dance). They also offer non-certificate classes in modern dance, flamenco and, a first this year, classical dance.

Culture and education secretary Susana Labrador called it “a way for Formentera residents of all ages to discover music and dance, whether pro or just for fun”.

Choir and musical band

The Escola accommodates two particularly large groups that are open to the public. The longest running to date is the island's polyphonic choir, which comprises some sixty people. This free activity, while designed for people with an interest in music, does not require previous study. The choir meets 90 minutes once weekly.

The sixty-person Formentera band, now in its second year, is composed mostly of wind-instrument players. Weekly classes include one hour of group lessons in the chosen instrument, an hour of music theory if no previous study has been done, and 90 minutes of band

practice.

Santa Cecilia
On November 22, the music and dance school celebrates Saint Cecilia in the Sant Francesc church. Attendees will get a look at the instruments that can be studied at the school, as well as performances from the polyphonic choir, the music band and students of dance.

http://escolamusica.conselldeformentera.cat