5. EL MUSICAL THEATRE

TOURIST ROUTE AROUND CABANYAL-EL CANYAMELAR-CAP DE FRANÇA

GENERAL MAP OF THE ROUTE



SITUATION OF THE TOURIST RESOURCE





What originally started out as a cinema and was called "El Patronato", "El Musical" or "El Tívoli", is nowadays a theatre called "Teatre El Musical".

The building is located in the Plaza del Rosario, next to the path that connected Canyamelar 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 rented on 12th March 1903 in premises located next to the church of the Rosary and it was here that it had its first official headquarters. It was the oldest musical society in Valencia.

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 drawn up by the architect Víctor Gosálvez; the building was inaugurated in 1929. The original façade was in the eclectic style of the time and was designed symmetrically with respect to the central entrance to the lobby, with two entrances, one on each side, of lower rank. The upper floor had a central bay window in the form of a semicircular arch, flanked by two balconies crowned with a classical pediment. The balustraded parapet of the central opening combined with the iron railings of the balconies. An austere parapet crowned the building.

Due to the high cost of the construction of the new headquarters and a series of disagreements in its charter, in 1926 it broke away from it, giving rise to a group of musicians who created the "Sociedad Musical Unión de Pescadores" (still active today). In 1932, the Patronato had to be dissolved and the Ateneo Musical del Puerto de València was born from its ashes. It was in the same year that the society's assets were put up for auction due to a large financial debt. 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 definitively. When the cinema closed, the building fell into a state of abandonment and degradation until the Town Hall, the new owner of the building, decided to create a cultural and performing arts centre. The architect Eduardo de Miguel Arbonés reported that the building was in a state of ruin and decided that only the façade should be maintained and the rest of the building demolished. However, far from maintaining the historic façade, he intervened on it in its original form, joining the two central openings, the door and the semicircular arched window on the upper floor, forming a large entrance door 11 metres high, creating what is now considered to be the tallest door in Valencia.

On the lintel of the door is inscribed "EL MUSICAL". The project is dated 1999, while the construction period is set at 2003.

Inside there is a civic centre, a cafeteria and a hall with more than 400 seats for theatre, dance, concerts, cinema, conferences and congresses.

PICTURES



Photo 1: Façade of the theatre when it was a cinema. Source: http://www.jdiezarnal.com/valenciateatroelmusicalantigua01.jpg

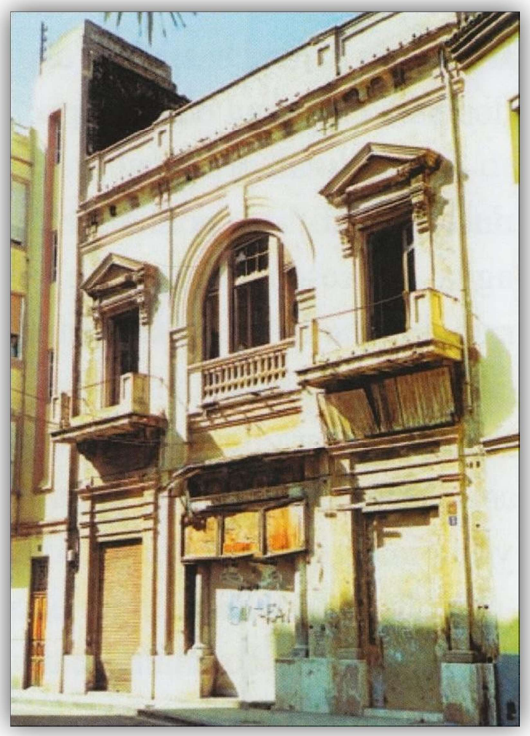
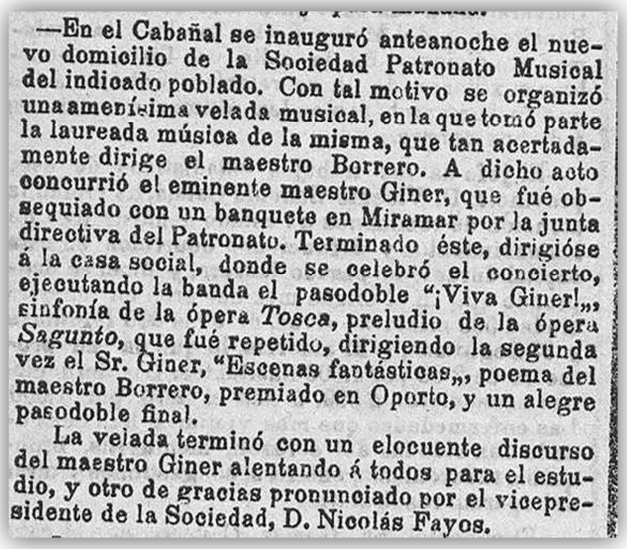


Photo 2: The theatre in a state of neglect. Source: http://www.jdiezarnal.com/valenciateatroelmusicalabandonado01.jpg



—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.

Photo 3: News about the inauguration of the Musical Society. Source: Las Provincias: Valencia newspaper, 14 March 1903 (page 2).