

# Hireme

The ultimate magazine for serious recruiters

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## Pablás is back.

What makes him the ultimate touring musician.



19 Page feature on all his accomplishments, education, works, projects and ideas.



pablas jazz<sup>4</sup> • luz



## PABLAS' FIRST MINI-EP IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND STREAMING!!!

*"Luz (light in Galician), represents the reborn and beginning of my journey as an adult musician. It is both a milestone but also a scarf in my belly. It was a cesarean birth, where fear, darkness and sadness were fighting against bringing this musical light alive.*

*When we were finally able to finish the recording, after 8 hours of complete madness, the feeling of relief and achievement were above any consideration about musical quality; it felt rather like a new chapter in my life, where the main purpose is finding my lost inner light.*

*So here we share this amazing trip through music, hoping that it also makes you get closer to find your own inner light."*

**THE HIREME TEAM:**

**PABLAS:** EXECUTIVE CONTENT DIRECTOR, MANAGING EDITOR, CONTENT WRITER, DESIGN DIRECTOR.

**CRYSTAL FINLEY, SUSANA GONZÁLEZ, NEREA IGLESIAS, ESTELA LÓPEZ:** EDITION ASSISTANTS.

**CATALINA GARCÍA, MARÍA REBOREDO:** TECHNICAL & DESIGN ASSISTANTS.

**NELSON CORSINO, SENÉN GARCÍA, STEVE SMITH, SASHA DMITRIEVA, PABLAS:** PHOTOGRAPHY

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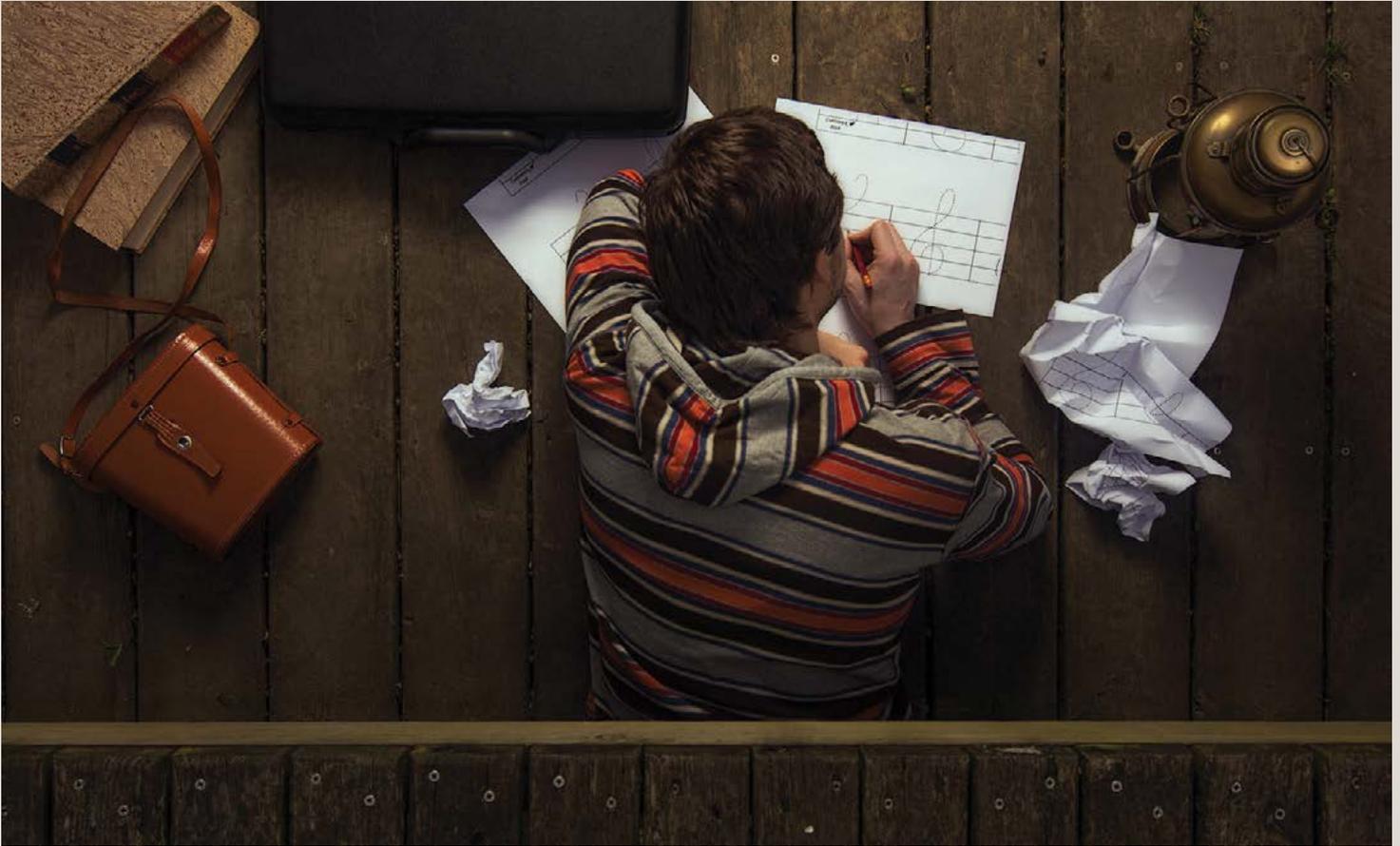
### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*I love this word, it has so many characters! Hey, gratitude is never negotiable!*

*Pablas' first guitar. It was lost in an attic for years, waiting for an intrepid teenager to be rescued.*

# THE MAILBOX

A place of gratitude for all the people who appreciate my work



## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear reader,

It is my greatest pleasure to have you as my guest in this adventure. The day I decided to pursue my dreams, I understood that to have extraordinary results, extraordinary actions must be taken. I am aware most people when they write a resume just want to get a job, but here the philosophy is totally different.

My main goal is to inspire recruiters, companies and fellow musicians to get out of their comfort zones and to embrace creativity in their lives. I believe passion and commitment are contagious, and that is the first contribution I want to give you: it is free and there are no strings attached. As Les Brown said: "You don't get in life what you want; you get in life what you are."

Enjoy your stay!



Pablas, Editor-in-chief

“

**"YOU DON'T GET IN LIFE WHAT YOU WANT; YOU GET IN LIFE WHAT YOU ARE". (LES BROWN)**

”

# THE BEST LETTERS OF THE MONTH



**“ PABLO IS A PLEASANT, HAPPY, HONEST AND TRUSTWORTHY PERSON AND EMPLOYEE. HE WOULD OFTEN BE FOUND HELPING NEW CREW MEMBERS, EVEN WHEN HE HIMSELF WAS ON HIS FIRST CONTRACT. ”**

" I am writing on behalf of Pablo Gonzalez. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Gonzalez for two months onboard Holland America Lines's MS Westerdam as a bandleader and fellow musician.

Pablo is a very capable guitarist, as well as an entertaining and exciting performer. His stage presence alone makes for an enjoyable audience experience; that combined with his fluidity and musicality in his guitar playing creates an amazing musical experience. He captures the fun and nuances that every musician should portray in their performing.

To speak for a moment on his character: Pablo is a pleasant, happy, honest and trustworthy person and employee. He would often be found helping new crew members, even when he himself was on his first contract. He is always willing to help and make time for those who ask him for it. Pablo quickly acclimated to ship life; not an easy task; he was able to help with language barriers for other crew members." [...]

Jason Brenner, Band Leader. (Holland America Line Inc.)

"I have had the opportunity to hear Pablo many times playing guitar and bass, both with equal skillfulness. Likewise, he led very diverse projects inside the Conservatory and, even with the most strict and rigid tasks, he was able to add a personal and original touch. Pablo is also a curious, attentive and trustworthy person, on whom you may count for any kind of initiative. He is always eager to experience new risky adventures and, whenever he encounters an obstacle, he always finds a way to overcome it.

He was also able to involve his fellow students, giving them a hand when needed. His kindness and social skills make him suited for any kind of institution due to his ability to use associationism and team building. I even witnessed him mediate disputes and act as a peacemaker on several occasions. As a student of mine, he was one of the most participative students ever. He is interested in all kinds of music topics and used to add value to the lessons.

To sum up, Pablo is a very capable musician, a kind person and he definitely deserves an opportunity. He will make the most of it without a doubt!"

Pablo Ruibal (Vicepresident and Musicology Teacher in CSM A Coruña.)

" I was delighted to have the chance to work with Pablo Gonzalez Rodriguez. He is a very talented guitar player and a pleasure to have [him] in my band. He was especially skilled in jazz music, but was also dedicated to play whichever style was required. Not only was he engaging with the crowd on stage, but also cared to connect with the guests off of it. I hope one day I have the pleasure to play with him again, and strongly recommend his talent for any type of band.

He also has a strong personality and he is very confident with repertoires. For this reason I recommend him for the Band Leader position".

Filippo Muntoni, Band Leader. (Holland America Line Inc.)

" Pablo is the most handsome and intelligent boy in the world. Period!"

Luz Maria Gonzalez. Professional Grandmother.

---

Anatomy of a great  
touring musician

**PABLAS IS  
BACK!**

Yes, his shoes are  
included in the  
pack when you  
hire him

# ALL YOU NEED IS A PLAN

The usual layout of a resume focuses on **what** you have done so far, but I always ask myself this question: What is the point of showing you a bunch of random achievements, jobs and degrees? Getting a pat on the back from the world and an “*Impressive! Well done!*”? For me focusing on **why** I have done everything is a more efficient way to connect and work with companies, musicians, recruiters and professionals who resonate with my mission, my approach to music and my life. So first, I will explain the *why* and then, just for convenience, I will point out the *whats*.

Balance. I always wanted to find growth in my professional and personal life in a balanced way. You can put all your efforts into developing amazing musical skills, but they will not be of any use if you are not able to take care of yourself both physically and mentally. Or maybe it is time to get a better gig but you lack social skills or connections. Another common situation is being offered a gig where you have to learn new stuff in a totally different way or just deal with unexpected situations.

So, should you care about my Yoga Teacher Training in India? Yes, because I took the time to learn how to manage my mind and body, which is going to help prevent injuries and it allows me to set an optimal performance state of mind.



*Pablas Jazz 4.0 performing live and winning the Festival de la Luz Jazz Composition Contest (2015)*

Should you care about my Music Education Degree? Maybe not, but all that knowledge can become handy when you need to develop a clear plan to train people to achieve a goal. And for sure it will also give me strategies to face challenges when I need to learn new stuff for a new gig.

Ok, ok, but do you have formal education as a musician? -I hear you say. Sure, I have been lucky enough to study a lot (and one way or another I will do it my whole life), looking always for improvement and self-development. I graduated in Jazz Guitar Improvisation, I have studied in Spain, Italy, Brazil, Argentina and Germany, most of the time through scholarships. I've studied with amazing teachers of all nationalities in subjects ranging from Flamenco Guitar to Heavy Metal. From Jazz Singing to Baroque Soprano Flute. I have kept the precious flame of curiosity alive since I was a child, so I want to learn. Always. About everything.

That sounds a bit busy. Have you had time to work at all? Yes, I have been working on all kind of projects, venues, styles... You name it. I've played bass or guitar in latin-dance orchestras, sometimes as a regular member and other as a last minute *sightreading-hero-replacing-another-sick* (or drunk) musician. I have worked on a cruise ship all along the waters of North America, I won contests with my own bands and I've played in Jazz Big Bands. I have even worked as a sound technician in different venues. The common trait here is all of them were challenges at their time. I love challenges!



*With Arroutadas, performing live and winning the I Sign Language Music Festival for Hearing-Impaired Contest (2015)*



*Working with Orquesta Acordes, replacing a fellow bass player with a finger injury. The house was packed! (2015)*

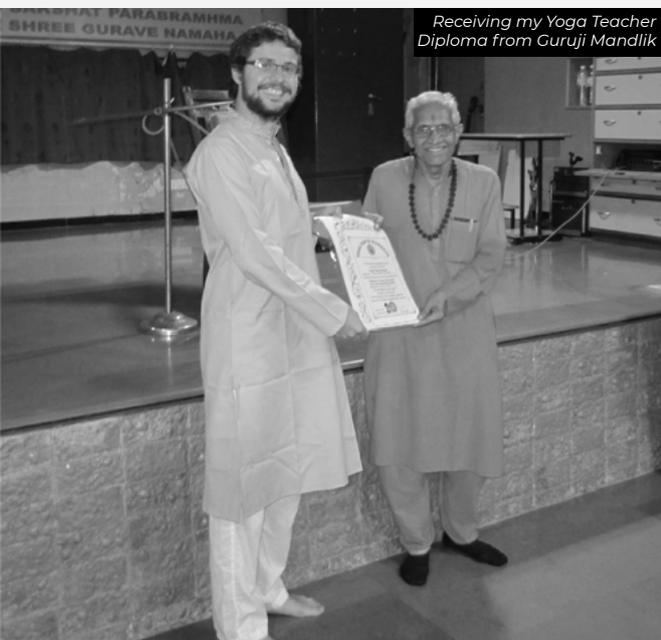


Photo: S. Smith

This may be the craziest and funniest HAL Cats band ever!

Why is important for a musician to have experience as a sound tech? In the details, and details, even if they are not easily noticeable, can make a big difference: Imagine being in a band, something goes wrong and soundcheck has to be done in a rush. The sound guy is stressed and the guitar or bass player keeps demanding "a bit more of presence" or "less oomph" in his monitor. I truly believe this guy and the whole band is going to appreciate more clarity and say things like "I need a 4dB raise around 2000Hz, please" or "I would like to cut everything below 80Hz, please", so you can save time and frustration for everybody. Things like knowing how to solder a cable or fix a damaged input jack, can also make a big difference. The difference between being the one bringing problems or the one bringing solutions to the table.

Language skills, are they worthy? Well, this one is less obvious... unless you intend to work in a world-class band or company with musicians all over the world. I love to help breaking language barriers and it also helps when socializing with audience all around the globe. And usually, if it is a world tour, I am the one ordering food and drinks for the whole band in that hidden *off-the-charts* restaurant where they only speak Italian. Or Spanish. Or German. Or French. Or Portuguese. Or even Galician (the most beautiful language ever, by the way). It is always about giving service to others, one way or another.



Receiving my Yoga Teacher Diploma from Guruji Mandlik

Samstag, 9. September 2017  
DOLO4, Nr. 210, 36. Woche

Press coverage of Pablas Jazz 4.0 first concert in the Germany Tour '17. And yes, German is quite difficult to learn, but a beautiful one!

## Anspruchsvolles zwischen Blues und armenischem Folk

Projekt Pablas Jazz im Pan-Kulturzentrum

„Alle meine Jazzstücke erzählen aus meinem Leben“, erzählt ein warmherziger Pablo Gonzalez im Pan-Kulturzentrum an der Günterstraße, „für mich ist Komponieren und Spielen spirituelle Tätigkeit.“ In Deutschland feiert er unter dem Künstlernamen Pablas Jazz mit einer Band aus hiesigen Musikern Premiere, und die legt sich mächtig ins Zeug. Gonzalez' Musik ist anspruchsvoll und nicht immer leichte Kost.

Pablas Jazz ist eigentlich eine komplett spanische Band, doch Gitarrist Gonzalez konnte seine Musiker nicht mitbringen. Mit einem modern groovenden „Answers and Questions“ von Pat Metheny, dessen Gewand nur leichtfüßig hinter vielfältigen Harmoniewechsels und melodischen Feinheiten erscheint sowie Charlie Parkers durch schnelle Melodielinien und Improvisationen glänzenden Bebop-Klassiker „Koko“ sorgen die noch sehr jun-

gen Musiker für den nötigen Drive.

In Bewegung bringt die Zuhörer Gonzalez' Stück „Armenia 1915“, das nach Balkan klingende armenische, zweistimmige Melodielinien mit einem Gemischt aus Flamenco und südspanischen Harmonien verknüpft. Pablos Improvisationen spannen mit arabischen Phrasen einen weiten Bogen vom maurischen Spanien in das ferne Land. Zwei stilistisch vielschichtige, aber mitreißende Latinnummern sorgen für ebenso viel Begeisterung.

Wer offen ist für neue Klänge, wird mit Pablas Jazz viel Freude haben.

Martin Speer

**Pablas Jazz ist noch zwei Mal zu erleben:** am heutigen Samstag ab 11 Uhr beim Campfire-Festival der TU, Campus Nord, und Montag (11.9.), 20.15 Uhr, Domicil, Hansastraße 7-11.



Für neue Klänge und Improvisationen steht das Projekt Pablas Jazz mit dem Spanier Pablo Gonzalez.

RN-FOTO SCHAPER

My work as a composer may be useless when you are working as a sideman for another artist. Until they figure out they need a short presentation tune to give more punch to the beginning of the show. Or they may need a new arrangement in a rush because the main singer is sick and the keyboard player can only sing it in a different key. Who knows, maybe it will never be needed, but surely it can give you peace of mind.

Lastly but not less importantly, I have been trying to get involved in every leading position available. Why? I love responsibilities! I have being the Band Leader in dozens of projects, (some of them have been awarded), I was elected President of the Students' Association in my former Conservatory and I am an eager reader of books about managing, leadership and related topics. I always want to push my boundaries and be ready if a project needs someone to lead when things go south.

**PABLAS' SIMPLIFIED  
GROWTH PATH**

CSM A CORUÑA  
JAZZ GUITAR DEGREE FINAL EXAM AND  
THESIS 2017

FACHHOCHSCHULE OSNABRÜCK  
JAZZ GUITAR (ERASMUS SCHOLARSHIP)  
2016-17

YOGA VIDYA GURUKUL  
YOGA TEACHER TRAINING COURSE  
2012

CSM A CORUÑA  
JAZZ GUITAR IMPROVISATION  
2010-2017

CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE, BUENOS AIRES.  
TRANSLATION COURSE (ENGLISH-SPANISH)  
2007

EMBA, BUENOS AIRES. SOUND TECHNICIAN  
AND MUSIC PRODUCTION\* 2007-2008  
\*I HAD COMPLETED AROUND 80% OF MUSIC PRODUCTION PROGRAM BEFORE  
RETURNING TO SPAIN. THE OFFICIAL DIPLOMA GRANTED WAS SOUND  
TECHNICIAN.

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO  
SUL // TEACHER SPEC. IN MUSIC EDUCATION  
(CEAL SCHOLARSHIP) 2005-2006

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO  
TEACHER SPEC. IN MUSIC EDUCATION  
(ERASMUS SCHOLARSHIP) 2004-2005

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MADRID  
TEACHER SPEC. IN MUSIC EDUCATION  
2003-2006

THE SUPREME JAZZ DUO  
JAZZ GUITAR/ARRANGEMENTS  
2018-?

ASECOSMAC  
PRESIDENT (VOLUNTEER JOB)  
2016-2017

ORQUESTA ACORDES // GRUPO BOMBA  
ELECTRIC BASS (SUBSTITUTIONS)  
2015

HAL CATS - HOLLAND AMERICA LINE  
ELECTRIC GUITAR  
2013

ORQUESTA NOCHE DE GALA  
ELECTRIC BASS (SUBSTITUTION)  
2010

GRUPO NEBRASKA  
ELECTRIC GUITAR (SUBSTITUTION)  
2009

CONCELLO DE RÁBADE  
GUITAR AND BASS TEACHER  
2009-2012

PICADILLO CIRCO  
SOUND TECHNICIAN  
2008

BISPO ARRIGUE MUSIC SCHOOL  
GUITAR TEACHER  
2006-2007

ORQUESTA BABILONIA  
ELECTRIC & NYLON STRING GUITAR,  
CAVAQUINHO AND CHARANGO  
2005

ORQUESTA NUEVA SOBERANA  
ELECTRIC GUITAR  
2004

2018

2017

2016

2015

2013

2012

2010

2009

2008

2007

2006

2005

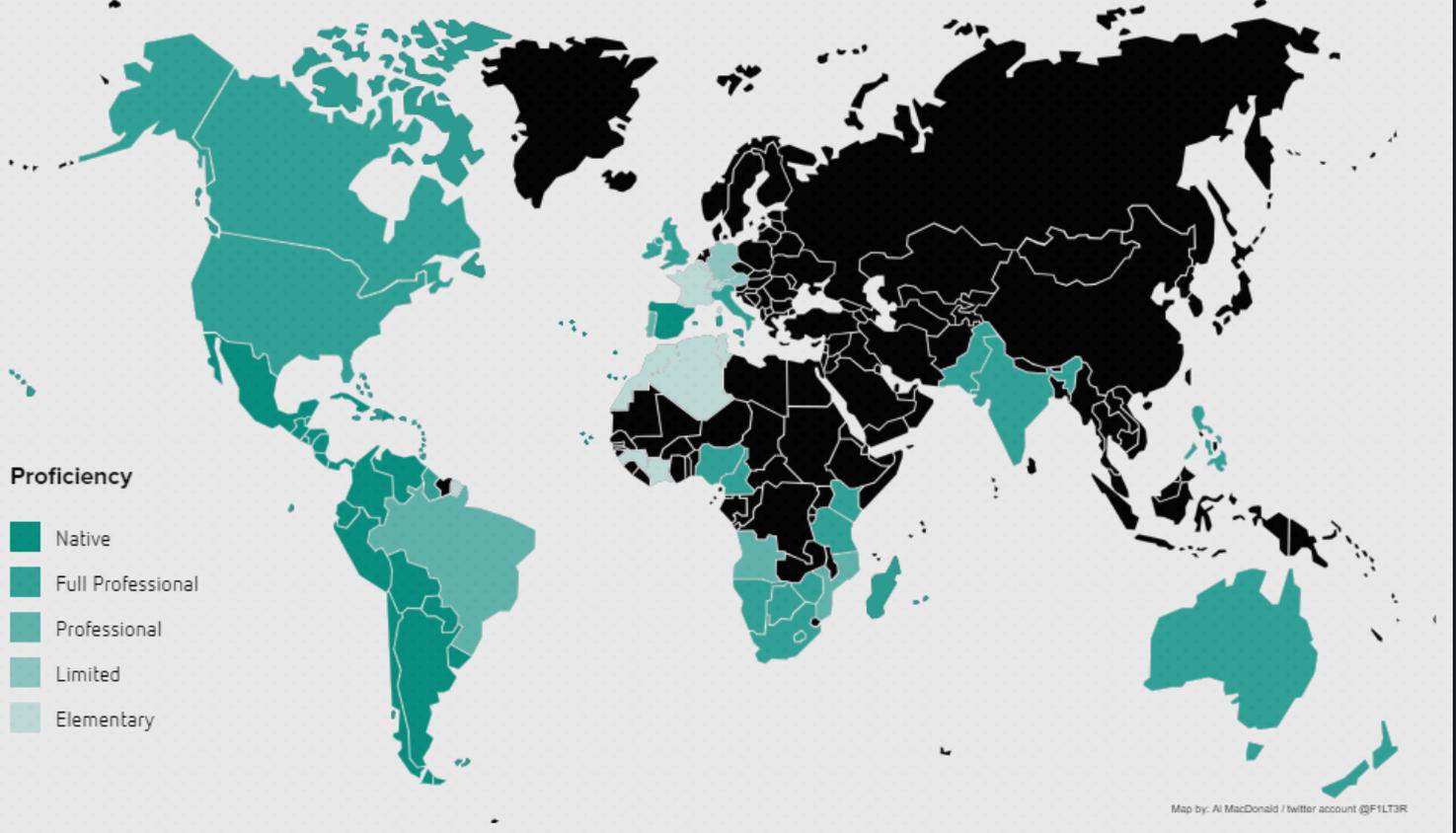
2004

2003

A peaceful and productive way to conquer the world!

# LANGUAGES

Spanish • Galician • English • Italian • Portuguese • German • French



*Pablas' balance system at a glance.*

Our fight will endure,  
**UNTIL THERE'S A CURE.**

#unstoppableagainstleukaemia



**Collaborate** with our scientific projects



**Josep Carreras**  
LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION

**UNSTOPPABLE**  
until we find a cure

The best recruiters ask, I reply.

# **AN HONEST INTERVIEW**



In a society where the tendency is to desperately fit in and follow the advice of the self-proclaimed gurus on how to do things the right way, it takes a bit of courage to face a job interview with a fresh, confident and original approach. You are about to read a raw, no make-up example of this concept.



**At some point, you decided to make a CV with a magazine format, with jokes, ads and other unusual elements. Are not you afraid of being rejected by this risky approach?**

I am way more afraid of being hired by the wrong company than not being hired at all. I believe respect is the most valuable asset when dealing with relationships, it does not matter if we talk about professional, personal or another kind of relationships. I deeply respect the energy and time of recruiters, hence I try to help them to do their job. By embracing such a risky, honest, and personal approach, it usually takes no more than one minute to figure out if I am a good fit for the company's mission, values, and goals. Sometimes it is more important how you say things rather than what you say at all.



**Why did you decide to become a professional musician?**

To be honest, it was a natural evolution rather than a clear vision. On the other hand, when I started to play guitar, I was driven by a clear purpose: I wanted to impress



With Steve Vai, the guitar hero of my early days.

the girls from my school [laughs]. The only mistake made was to learn blues licks instead of pop tunes, so needless to say, girls continued to pay no attention to me [laughs]. At some point, I discovered myself willing to arrive home just to grab my guitar and try to learn new licks and tricks. I wanted to improve more and more, so I thought I would need to become a professional player to be able to spend all the amount of time and energy required to do so.



**Who was the musician who inspired you the most in the early days?**

This is an easy one. When I first heard "For the Love of God", by Steve Vai, I remained speechless for hours. I was astonished by his creativity, originality and passion. I always wanted to find my own voice as a player and those values remained as a solid foundation for my career.



**What about your beginnings with bass guitar?**

I started to play bass guitar when I was seventeen or so. I was on fire and ready to join every band or project available. I had some friends

playing in a punk band, so I went to one of their rehearsals to give it a try. They liked my ideas, but there was a problem: "You are too good. You can play guitar solos and fancy stuff. So we want you to play bass" - they said. So that is the reason why I started to play bass.



**Do you see yourself more as a guitar player or a bass player?**

I see myself more as a musician. My main instrument is my brain and my soul, guitars or basses are just useful and wonderful tools to get the job done.



**What was your biggest achievement in your career?**

Hmm... [thinking]. Getting a contract as a sideman guitar player in a cruise ship was something I've been always proud of. In those days, I barely could sightread "Happy Birthday" with my instrument...que des and guess what: having great sightreading skills was mandatory for the position. I prepared for the audition with a former cruise ship guitar player, I worked hard, and after some time I

made a live audition. It was a massive failure. By no means was I prepared to sightread Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody, so I played a couple of notes here and there and remained silent for 80% of the tune. The recruiter was quite hard on me (justifiably) and the failure feeling was quite intense.

What is interesting, though, is the fact that I did not give up. I continued to show up on every single project, job, band, and rehearsal with any reading task involved. Six years (six!!) after seeing that "Travel the world while being paid", I had the chance to audition again and this time I made it!



**And your biggest failure? Are you willing to talk about it?**

Of course, this is supposed to be an honest and raw interview after all! I cannot remember when I joined that project, but I think it was around 7 years ago. I was offered a position as an Artistic Producer for a new latin-party-dance oriented band. I worked really hard, I put all the effort but I failed in choosing the right "why".

When I accepted the position, my priority was not to make a long-term project based in serving the audience, it was based in finding a format and a way to satisfy short-term goals and earn money even if the final result was not the best. I was totally misaligned with my essence and my values and ended up being a massive failure. I was devastated but it was a necessary step to mature and become a more responsible and wise manager

# ▶ THE INTERVIEW

and musician. In addition to the lesson learned, I decided to redirect my career: I joined the Conservatory to study Jazz Guitar. Wisdom without action is useless!



**Are you picky about musical gear? How do you deal with less than ideal situations?**

I am not picky at all. I would rather pay 300€ in an audio ear-training course than buying a new set of pickups. I used to get crazy about amps, effects, and stuff. Fortunately, now I've changed directions. Nowadays is possible to get a simple-yet-affordable professional grade



Strats are no longer the industry standard for sparkly-clean sounds.

set-up for almost every gig. The critical aspect is learning how to use it instead of just fiddling randomly with knobs.

What I personally do is, first of all, do my research before any given gig. What kind of aesthetics, sound, and vibe is required? When I have a clear answer, I plan with a minimalistic strategy: Use the fewer equipment with the higher quality possible. It is not worth carrying one more pedal for a small nuance considering the risks of failure, added noise, and other possible problems.

Any difficult situations? Of course, for that reason I always carry a backup plan. DI boxes with built-in speaker emulation are a blessing when you deal with a faulty or noisy amp!



**What are your strengths as a musician?**

I am a leaning machine, and I am never satisfied. If I master the tone of a song, I will improve my tempo. If the solos are smokin' hot, I will try to get better in my choreography while playing rhythm guitar. I may not be the best guitar or bass player out there, but my attitude is world-class. And as a bonus, I am fun. I was born with the utmost skillfulness for inventing dad jokes! [laughs].



**What about your biggest weakness?**

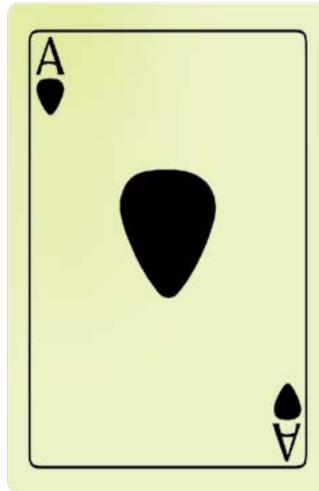
I am not the fastest player in town. If you want a shredding machine for your show, with the proper training and giving me enough time... I certainly could do it (I never fix limits on what I can do or not). Anyway, chances are you will end up searching for a true specialist in that playing style.



**What do you value the most when you get offered a gig?**

I always go for the biggest challenges, the most exciting gigs with the best musicians and companies. Working with the best guarantees a never-ending learning experience, and that is the biggest part of my salary. If I have to choose between an average gig with a huge

salary and another gig with the best musicians and a lower pay, I would take the latter anytime.



This is the front side of Pablas' business card. The ace of picks!!!

Money is an important aspect of life and that is why I always make this choice: When I work with the best, I learn and improve, so my value increase and therefore, my potential to reach higher salaries increases as well.



**Let's try something unusual now. If you were an animal which one would you be?**

ROOOOOOOOAR!!! [laughs]. A lion without any doubt!

I am not wandering in the savannah of life hoping something good eventually will happen to me. I do like lions do! I sit,

plan, choose my desired outcome and go for it with every single muscle of my body!



**Final question. Why should I hire you?**

I have a powerful mantra! VALUE AND FOCUS. I am obsessed with growth, learning and giving every single day more value. I want to reach that mastery where is more convenient for a company to hire me to play in the other corner of the world than hiring the "just-good player" waiting at next door. It is a big challenge, but that is exactly why I love it.

Focus: my focus is on serving. I serve the audience, I do my best to make them happier, to inspire them, to provide something good to them and to the world. Music is my tool of choice to make a positive difference in Earth. This includes fellow musicians and companies I work for. If you are helping me to achieve my dreams, it makes total sense to help you achieve yours!

**Hireme wants to thank Pablas for his time and this wonderful interview. We wish him the biggest of achievements in his career!**



# AUDITIONING FOR MY DREAM GIG

AN INSPIRING STORY ABOUT COURAGE, SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND ENDURANCE



[Do you want to watch the audition? Click here!](#)

## CHAPTER 1. THE CROSSROADS

Eventually, I finished moving back to my family house. It had been a long and painful year for me; financial struggles, a heart-breaking romantic disappointment and a never-ending lack of musical inspiration jeopardized the achievement of my Jazz Guitar Degree. Nevertheless, I endured and I finally made it.

A chapter of my life ended, and while excited to at last achieve my goal, I felt the subtle caress of fear wracking my nerves. And now... What is next? -I thought. I'd turned 34, I had incurred in a debt with my family in order to finish my studies, I had to reject gigs and jobs in order to focus on my final examination, I had to leave behind all my friends in the city of A Coruña and come back to live with my family in an old town during a short span of time.

I felt overwhelmed, it was for sure a critical situation. After having an amazing life studying in different countries, playing in incredible bands and gigs, after so much excitement, I suddenly found myself at a crossroad. Should I do like most of the people and my family advocates, getting a regular job and "becoming an adult"? Or should I try just once more to reach an unreasonable dream?

Back in 2013, I was working in Holland America Line's vessel MS Westerdam as



Leaving behind these amazing sunsets can be painful.

a sideman guitar player for the house band. I remember vividly the day a new band arrived to join the Entertainment Department. The BB King All Stars Club were on a whole different league, I saw them performing and I was able to see myself on stage with them instantly: the vibe was good, the musicians really talented and the quality of the show was spot on.

When I finished my contract and finally arrived back home to continue my studies, this band ended in this hidden department of my mind called "Things I'll

forget about until one day they suddenly pop out again at any random time". And that was exactly what happened. I'd made up my mind. And my decision was to try to get into the "almost-impossible-to-get" gig.

## CHAPTER 2. WHERE DO I START?

I was excited and really eager to start working. But... Where do you get a tutorial on how to achieve an unrealistic goal in a period of struggle? As funny as it may sound, I actually did my research. Dozens of books, videos and podcasts later, I had a clear plan of action backed up by the most successful people on Earth. It is actually quite simple, I started asking quality questions, and here comes the first: What do I need to do in order to be hired in a band from Memphis when they can hire top musicians next door?

I brought my notepad and started writing down:

- I play guitar and bass, that is pretty amazing because it makes life easier for the recruiter, gives the flexibility to arrange the line-up based on the availability of other musicians. Good!

- This is a gig at the sea, I already have experience working in a cruise ship, so this means I will not freak out. That could be interesting too.

- I am familiar with the repertoire and I am pretty good at transcribing tunes note-by-note as demanded by the manager.

- The audiences love me. But unless I get the gig, I cannot demonstrate it. Let's cross out this one.



When you decided to go for it, but you do not know where to start.

I kept writing down more pros and cons, and I finally realized that the only thing that could make me stand out from the crowd was the attitude. I had to send them more than an audition, I needed to send them the ultimate tribute to flawless work ethics, passion, commitment, and value. So be it!

I was supposed to send three tunes for the guitar audition and another two for the bass audition: One of them was common, so I had to work with four songs in total. I decided to bring even more value, so I recorded guitar and bass on all tracks. I researched some videos on Youtube and saw one of their players doing backing vocals. So I resolved to put that into the table too. I even felt like transcribing and playing a sax solo in one of the tunes. Nobody was going to outwork me, that was for sure.

So I started preparing the first tune, a jazz standard. While I was transcribing it, I started working too on other tasks. I needed a Telecaster sound, but I had no one at hand and of course, I could not afford buying one. So I took my first electric guitar, built a new pickguard out of wood and reuse some old Tele pickups to made it happen. I had to learn about woodworking and guitar electronics wirings in no time, but I made it. No excuses allowed, not anymore!

By the time I finished preparing the guitar, I had to learn about video editing, also in no time. I wanted to send good quality videos as a reflection of my standards as a player, so cutting corners there was not allowed. I had no money to buy the software, so I used trial versions and keep formatting my computer every month to being able to



Working on the new pickguard.

reset the trial period and keep working. I even had to learn how to open, clean the guts of a laptop and reapply thermal paste because my laptop was literally dying. No excuses allowed.

I had to make a survival plan to save every possible cent, so I could not afford to go to the gym anymore. I had to develop an insane self-discipline and train at home. I researched about calisthenics and built training stuff with spare parts lying in the garage. No excuses allowed.

Being able to finish the first video felt like a huge milestone, I felt relieved and my stamina grew bigger. I kept following my insane daily plan of work, including ear-training, vocal training, guitar and bass playing, rhythm and inner beat training, yoga, motivational videos and a clean diet to name a few. By comparison, the second tune, *Knock on Wood*, was smoother and easier to deliver. I was halfway there! Woo!

### CHAPTER 3. THE HUGE SETBACK

So I continued with *I've Heard it Through the Grapevine*. Getting the



You can be granted with a Green Card by proving ultimate excellency in your field.

bass line right was time-consuming, but anyway I was able to get everything ready to record. But then, suddenly, I read something that burned all my expectations to ashes.

I had chosen consciously to avoid asking questions about the requisites for the gigs because I wanted to focus on just doing the work. If I had asked, I would have risked being told I was not eligible and hence, my drive would have been killed forever. That day my strategy failed because I read a new ad on Facebook about the auditions; they added some interesting info, including one mandatory requisite: "You must be a USA citizen or be in possession of a Green Card". BOOOOOM.

I was halfway there, I could not throw all my efforts into the bin. What can I do? -I thought. First idea: getting married to an american woman. Second idea: investigating how to get a Green Card. Third idea (the best one): keeping working until you are so good that it is worth for them all the hassle of hiring a foreigner. I think this was the most representative example of my new mindset. Giving up was no longer an option.

So I kept grinding, no days off, ending every day destroyed both physically and mentally but willing to get up again the next day and continue working hard. I finished the third video and, while it took way more than expected due to a quite hard lead guitar part, I did the same with the fourth and last one. I felt like a beast, I could hear winds of change in my destiny, I could sense I was in the right direction.

The videos were ready, doing way more than I am expected to do. On top of that, I will send some of the written transcriptions as a proof of my dedication and attention to detail. I am probably overworking a lot of guys out there, but it is not enough. I want to give even more.

I came up with this crazy idea of a resume in a magazine style. If you are reading it now, that means I have finished it too. I had to think about the content and write it down (in a non-native language for me), I had to learn to use three different software programs almost from scratch, I had to learn about graphic design, photo editing, layout design and finish everything in one/two weeks maximum.

Sounds like it is impossible? It is not. When there is a will, there is a way. And my will is to give the best of the best.

I have no idea if I will be hired or not, but I have at least one thing crystal-clear in my mind. I am going to celebrate when I send the material, not when receiving a response, because no gig is worthier than developing this strong mindset and relentless drive. The biggest prize is not getting the best job, the biggest prize is becoming the kind of person entitled to deserve that job.

The best is yet to come. Always! Never ever give up!



**There is no reason to have a Plan B because it will distract your Plan A.**

**-Will Smith**



# Hireme

*In our next issue...*



## **A NEW INSPIRING STORY**

*If you climb a mountain, find a bigger one.*

## **YOU ARE RIGHT, FAILURE STINKS...**

*...but it makes the best fertilizer for the soil of success.*

## **PABLAS' BAG OF TRICKS**

*How I get the job done using creativity, focus and drive*

## **WORKING HARD IS NOT ENOUGH**

*How to keep focus on being effective.*

## **INTERVIEW WITH A HIGH ACHIEVER**

*Hearing carefully what the high achievers have to tell you is always a good investment.*

## **MORE SURPRISES (AND DAD JOKES)!**

*More contents seasoned with fun and creativity.*



A man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, is shown from the waist up. He is standing in a bathroom with light-colored tiled walls. He is holding a black electric guitar in a sink and pouring a thick, white, foamy soap from a valve-driven dispenser onto it. The soap is being poured from the top of the guitar's neck. The overall tone of the image is monochromatic, with a blueish-grey tint.

*“This is the  
hidden secret  
to my clean  
tones”*

# *Pablas Soapersonic*

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