



TRANSCRIPT – CULTURAL DIFFERENCES: AN INTERVIEW WITH AMY

- ***Can you introduce yourself?***

My name is Amy Shimmelman and I'm from Chicago.

- ***How long have you been here in Spain?***

I've been here for 26 years. One year in Valladolid and 25 in La Coruña.

- ***What do you do?***

I play the French Horn in the 'Orchestra Sinfónica de Galicia'.

- ***Why is it like playing in the Galician Symphony Orchestra?***

My job is truly fantastic. Making beautiful music with great colleagues from all around the world.

- ***What was your idea of Spain before you came here?***

My idea of Spain was Andalucia, bullfights, white-washed villas, sangria.

- ***Has that idea changed since you've been here?***

Of course. I made a point to travel all over Spain to see the different regions and eat all the amazing food. The people are so different in each región. And the culture and the history is amazing.

- ***Were you surprised about Galicia?***

Of course, I had no idea about Galicia when I first visited. It was so green. The seafood was amazing. The beaches were perfect.

- ***What are some of the cultural differences you notice between Americans and Spaniards?***

People here are very proud of their local regions and not as enthusiastic about Spain as a nation. Americans love their national flag and are very patriotic. It seems to me that many Americans want to go to college and go to a big city and make something important of their careers. Maybe they can go back home to where they are from. But the dream is to get away. 'Gallegos', on the other hand, would be happy to stay close to home if they could find good jobs and have a family. They love Galicia. 'Gallegos' are quite shy at first. Then, when they know you, they are generally a very generous group of people. Americans can be open and friendly, which is nice, when you arrive somewhere as a stranger. It's really very different.

- ***What is the worst thing about living here?***

The worst thing for me has been the distance between myself and my family, in good times and bad.

- ***What is the best thing about living here?***

Spain has provided me with a beautiful home and an opportunity to create a great life with my husband and my children. It's very safe and a kind place. And I'm happy to call it my home.