December 21st to February 14th

“Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena”

- Concerts in the Palace’s Great Hall
- Several artists gathering especially for the occasion
- Conferences with Luísa Cymbron (Univ. Nova, Lisbon) precede the concerts
- The musical evenings evoke themes interconnected with Sintra:
  - “Cintra’s Glorious Eden”
  - “Exoticisms”
  - “Elise Hensler: Queen of Pena”
  - “Ferdinand and his Bavaria”

Sintra, December 2nd 2014 – From December 21st to February 14th, Parques de Sintra and CEMSP – the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth-Century Musical Studies present the cycle “Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena”, taking place in the Great Hall. Each one of the four sessions includes a concert at 9.30pm preceded by an introductory conference by the musicologist Luisa Cymbron at 9pm.

The cycle seeks to evoke – through music – questions, images and the figures interconnected with the various 19th century ambiances both of Sintra and in particular of Pena. Beyond the love of nature (one of the great themes of the romantic imaginary experiencing a transversal affirmation through several forms of art) and the interest in the exoticism, especially in architectural terms, another great passion of Ferdinand II was music as is more than clear whether from witness accounts from many of his contemporaries or from the legacy of his vast collection of musical scores.

The first evening, “Cintra’s Glorious Eden”, takes place on December 21st and features a concert by the Trio Aeternus, made up of the British violinist Alexander Stewart, the Polish pianist Lucjan Luc and the Armenian cellist Varoujan Bartikian. The concert program includes excerpts from the opera Der Freischutz by C.M von Weber and works by F. Schubert and B. Smetana.

Based upon the renowned phrase from Lord Byron, “Cintra’s Glorious Eden”, this concert aims to explore the influence the fascination for nature – and across both its more charming and its starker facets – exercised on many of the musicians in the 19th century, especially those following the Germanic tradition alongside the way such dimensions were musically evoked by composers such as Franz Schubert or Carl Maria von Weber.
On January 10th, the “Exoticisms” evening draws on performances by the soprano Dora Rodrigues, the pianist João Paulo Santos, the baritone Luís Rodrigues and the tenor Mário Alves, gathering together especially for this occasion. The concert program spans works by Keil, Bizet, Saint-Saëns, David, Migone, Massenet, Loewe, Sá Noronha and Pereira. The title makes reference to the architectural diversity existing throughout the landscapes of Sintra and Pena (from the Neo-Manueline to the Neo-Arab) and embarks on a voyage through the 19th century fascination with various types of exoticism. In the field of music, this trend achieved a particular pinnacle in France, centred initially on interest in North Africa before spreading to the most remote regions of the globe.

On January 31st, the theme of the evening becomes “Elise Hensler: Queen of Pena” with the performance featuring the soprano Cristiana Oliveira, the pianist João Paulo Santos and the baritone Nuno Pereira. This group of artists comes together specifically for this occasion with the evening's program containing works by Millard, Pease, Keil, Vianna da Motta, Saint-Saëns, Gounod, Strauss, Donizetti, Lachner, Mercadante and Verdi. This concert focuses on Elise Hensler, later the Countess of Edla. Born in Switzerland and raised in Boston, Hensler went onto attend the Paris Conservatory before becoming a professional singer on the Italian circuit. Already a Countess, she spent a good proportion of her married life in Pena, displaying a profound interest in the planting and maintenance of the Park. This concert aims to characterise the diversity of the musical ambiences that surrounded the Countess and her privileged relationship with Sintra, here symbolised by the horn, an instrument that – to German Romanticism – best glorified the mystical relationship between man and nature.

February 14th, Saint Valentine's Day, sees the final evening in this cycle entitled “Ferdinand and his Bavaria”. The soprano Ana Franco, the tenor Bruno Almeida, the mezzosoprano Carolina Figueiredo, the baritone João Merino, the pianist João Paulo Santos and the trumpeter Paulo Guerreiro gather to perform a unique concert on this very special night. The program contains interpretations of works by Liszt, Meyerbeer, Rossini, Frondoni, Saint-Saëns, Gounod, Rubinstein, Verdi and Napoleon. The title of the evening stems from the fact that it was in Pena that Ferdinand most deeply displayed the strength of his bond with his German roots. Furthermore, his eclectic tastes reveal his passion for music and which led him to invite a broad range of artists to visit him in Lisbon.

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**Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena**

**“Cintra’s Glorious Eden”**  
**Sunday, 21st December 2014, Great Hall**  
9pm: Conference with Luísa Cymbron  
9.30pm: Trio Aeternus  
Tickets on sale at the usual outlets and online

**“Exoticisms”**  
**Saturday, 10th January 2015, Great Hall**
9pm: Conference with Luísa Cymbron
9.30pm: Dora Rodrigues (soprano); João Paulo Santos (piano); Luís Rodrigues (baritone); Mário Alves (tenor)
Tickets on sale at the usual outlets and online

“Elise Hensler, Queen of Pena”
Saturday, 31st January 2015, Great Hall
9pm: Conference with Luísa Cymbron
9.30pm: Cristiana Oliveira (soprano); João Paulo Santos (piano); Nuno Pereira (baritone)
Tickets on sale at the usual outlets and online

“Ferdinand and his Bavaria”
Saturday, 14th February 2015, Main Chamber
9pm: Conference with Luísa Cymbron
9.30pm: Ana Franco (soprano); Bruno Almeida (tenor); Carolina Figueiredo (mezzosoprano); João Merino (basso); João Paulo Santos (piano); Paulo Guerreiro (trumpet)
Tickets on sale at the usual outlets and online

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TICKETS:
10 Euros per concert
On sale in the Parques de Sintra ticket offices, online at www.blueticket.pt and at FNAC, Worten, El Corte Inglés, MEO Arena, Media Markt and Airport and Pç. do Comércio Tourism Offices.

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About CEMSP – the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth-Century Musical Studies
The main objective of the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth-Century Musical Studies, with its headquarters in the National Palace of Queluz, involves raising the profile and promoting the musical heritage associated with the Palace of Queluz where music always held a central role reflected in the performance of dozens of serenades and operas. The Centre correspondingly stages in the rooms of the Palace concerts, events, conferences, symposiums and colloquia as well as master classes and other initiatives seeking to study and restore the times and the traditions of the great musical events held in the season of the Royal Family’s residence in the Palace of Queluz, simultaneously contributing to the public enjoyment of a high quality musical program and adding an additional dimension to the Palace’s role as an unmistakable landmark in the Portuguese cultural heritage.
www.divinosospiro.org
About Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua

Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua, S.A. (PSML) is a state-owned limited company with exclusively public capital that was created in 2000 following the recognition by UNESCO of the Cultural Landscape of Sintra as a World Heritage Site. The company was created to assemble the public institutions responsible for preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage in Sintra. PSML has been entrusted with the management of the State’s main properties in the area. Because it does not resort to the State Budget, PSML depends entirely on proceeds from the tickets sale, shops, cafeterias and hiring of venues for events, in order to restore, maintain and promote the heritage it manages.

In 2013, the natural and cultural heritage managed by PSML (the Park and Palace of Pena, the National Palaces of Sintra and Queluz, the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, the Moorish Castle, the Palace and Gardens of Monserrate, the Convent of the Capuchos and the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art) welcomed approximately 1,700,000 visitors, over 90% of whom were from outside of Portugal.

The shareholders of PSML are the Directorate General of Treasury and Finance (Direção Geral do Tesouro e Finanças - representing the State), the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity (Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade - ICNB), the Portuguese Tourism Board (Turismo de Portugal) and the Municipality of Sintra (Câmara Municipal de Sintra - CMS).

www.parquesdesintra.pt or www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra

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