31 January

‘Elise Hensler: Queen of Pena’ musical evening
in the Great Hall at the Palace of Pena

- The soprano Cristiana Oliveira, the baritone Nuno Pereira, the horn player Paulo Guerreiro and the pianist João Paulo Santos will appear together specially for the occasion
- Works by Charles Gounod, Camille Saint-Saëns and José Vianna da Motta, among other composers
- The cycle ‘Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena’

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv41c3iz4kk&feature=youtu.be

Sintra, 21 January 2015 – The third evening in the cycle ‘Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena’, entitled ‘Elise Hensler: Queen of Pena’, will take place on 31 January. It includes a recital by the soprano Cristiana Oliveira, the baritone Nuno Pereira, the horn player Paulo Guerreiro and the pianist João Paulo Santos that takes place at 9.30 p.m., preceded by a lecture at 9.00 p.m.

Both the concert and the lecture by the musicologist Luísa Cymbron take place in the Great Hall at the National Palace of Pena, which was restored in early 2014.

This concert aims to exemplify the diversity of musical environments that surrounded Elise Hensler and her privileged relationship with Sintra, which is symbolized here by the horn, an instrument that, in German Romanticism, glorified the mystical relationship between man and nature.

The programme for the night includes works by Charles Gounod, Alfredo Keil, Alfred Pease, Harrison Millard, Franz Lachner, Camille Saint-Saëns, Franz Strauss, Saverio Mercadante, Gaetano Donizetti, José Vianna da Motta and Giuseppe Verdi.

This recital features four leading names in the world of music: the soprano Cristiana Oliveira, who, in 2010, was a member of the New York Opera Studio, where she played the role of Yaroslavna in Borodin’s opera ‘Prince Igor’ under the direction of Nico Castel; the baritone Nuno Pereira, the winner of the Dewar Award, who has performed in oratorios and concerts in Portugal, Spain, Germany, England and Scotland; the horn player Paulo Guerreiro, who is the first solo horn for the Portuguese Symphony Orchestra and a member of the Divino Sospiro Baroque Orchestra; and the pianist and conductor João Paulo Santos, who, as the current Director of
Musical Studies and the Musical Stage Director at the São Carlos National Theatre, is one of the key figures on the music scene in Portugal.

Born in Switzerland and educated in Boston, Elise Hensler attended the Paris Conservatoire and became a professional singer on the Italian circuit. As the Countess of Edla, she spent many of her married years at Pena, showing a deep interest in the planting and maintenance of the Park.

The cycle, which is presented by Parques de Sintra and the Divino Sospiro - Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth-Century Musical Studies (DS-CEMSP), will run until 14 February and is made up of four evenings, each featuring a recital and a lecture.

The season aims to use music to evoke topics, images and figures linked to the various milieus of Sintra, particularly the Palace of Pena, in the nineteenth century. Besides a love of nature (which, as one of the great themes of the Romantic imagination, finds expression across all of the various arts) and an interest in the exotic, particularly in the sphere of architecture, another of Ferdinand II’s great passions was music, as made clear by many contemporary testimonies and by the inventory of his vast musical collection.

The project ‘Musical Evenings at Pena Palace’ is co-funded by POR Lisboa – Regional Operational Programme and is also supported by the Directorate General for the Arts and by Antena 2 as media partner.

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**Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena**

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

“Ferdinand and his Bavaria” [SOLD OUT]
**Saturday, 14th February 2015, Main Chamber**
9pm: Conference with Luísa Cymbron
9.30pm: Ana Franco (soprano); Bruno Almeida (tenor); Carolina Figueiredo (mezzosoprano); João Merino (bass); João Paulo Santos (piano)
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](http://www.blueticket.pt) and at FNAC, Worten, El Corte Inglés, MEO Arena, Media Markt and Airport and the Tourism Offices of Sintra and Cascais.
Over 6 years of age
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 colloquiums 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 unmistakeable 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 an entirely state owned company founded in 2000 in order to meet the challenges arising out of the UNESCO classification of the Sintra Cultural Landscape as a World Heritage site. The entity does not resort to the State Budget and the restoration and maintenance of the heritage in its care are ensured by the revenues resulting from sales at its ticket offices, stores, cafeterias and the rental of facilities for the hosting of events.

In 2014, the sites managed by PSML (the Park and National 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 1,928,000 visits, around 86% of whom were international in origin. In 2013 and 2014, PSML was distinguished with the World Travel Award for the “World’s Leading Conservation Company”. The PSML shareholders are the General Directorate of the Treasury and Finance (representing the Portuguese state), the Portuguese Institute of Nature and Forestry Conservation, the Portuguese Tourism Board and Sintra Municipal Council.

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

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