14 February

“King Ferdinand and his Bavaria”
in the Great Hall of the Palace of Pena

- Soprano Ana Franco, mezzosoprano Carolina Figueiredo, tenor Bruno Almeida, bass João Merino and pianist João Paulo Santos come together especially for this concert
- Works by Angelo Frondoni, Charles Gounod and Camille Saint-Saëns, among other composers
- The final evening of the cycle "Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena"

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

Sintra, 6 February 2015 – The fourth and final evening of the cycle “Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena”, entitled “King Ferdinand and his Bavaria”, takes places on 14 February. It features a concert by soprano Ana Franco, mezzosoprano Carolina Figueiredo, tenor Bruno Almeida, bass João Merino and pianist João Paulo Santos, at 21h30, preceded by a lecture at 21h00.
Both the concert and the lecture, given by the musicologist Luísa Cymbron, will take place in the Great Hall at the National Palace of Pena, which was restored in early 2014.

While it is true that King Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha adopted Portugal as his fatherland, protecting the country's artists and heritage, it is also true that perhaps it was at Pena, assisted by the Baron von Eschwege, that his connection to his German roots was most evident. However, his well-known passion for music reveals his eclectic tastes and the contact he had with a wide range of artists who visited Lisbon (from Liszt to Anton Rubinstein and Camillo Sivori).

The evening's programme includes works by Anton Rubinstein, Giuseppe Verdi, Charles Gounod, Angelo Frondoni, Giacomo Meyerbeer, Gioachino Rossini, Camille Saint-Saëns and Artur Napoleão.

This concert features five names from Portugal's musical scene: soprano Ana Franco, who has appeared in concerts with world renowned directors at the São Carlos National Theatre, the Belém Cultural Centre and São Luiz Theatre; mezzosoprano Carolina Figueiredo, who regularly performs in solo recitals of Baroque and Romantic music and has sung in various organ festivals in Portugal and Spain; tenor Bruno Almeida, a founder of Projecto Alba, dedicated to promoting lyrical singing and the Portuguese guitar, who has collaborated with the Choir of the São Carlos National Theatre and is a support member of the Gulbenkian Choir; bass João Merino, winner of
the Eng.º António de Almeida prize, who has performed in numerous concerts with Grupo Música Nova, including various national and world premieres of contemporary works; and pianist and conductor João Paulo Santos, the current Director of Music Studies and Musical Director of the São Carlos National Theatre and one of the leading figures in Portugal's musical scene.

The cycle, which is presented by Parques de Sintra and Divino Sospiro - Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth-Century Musical Studies (DS-CEMSP), will be completed with this evening on 14 February.

The season aims to use music to evoke the themes, images and figures that pertain to the various settings of Sintra in the nineteenth century, and to Pena, in particular. 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.

Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena

“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

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 the Tourism Offices of Sintra and Cascais.
Over 6 years of age

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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 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

Information for the Press:

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