MUSICAL EVENINGS BRING BACK EIGHTEENTH CENTURY SOUNDS TO THE PALACE OF PENA

Inspired on the ambience of the evening concerts staged at the Palace of Pena by the artist king Ferdinand II, the “Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena” cycle features four concerts held on Saturdays at 9pm between 4 and 25 March.

The Great Hall of the Palace becomes, as in the time when Ferdinand II (1816-1885) lived there, the chosen stage for these events featuring chamber music, solo piano and the song repertoire of the Romantic (19\textsuperscript{th}) century in keeping with the preferences of the monarch and his second wife, the Countess of Edla, who would regularly receive numerous artists and intellectuals in these surroundings.

Vasco Dantas, a multiple award winning young Portuguese pianist; the excellent Canadian soprano Siphiwe McKenzie, making her premiere in Portugal; the renowned cellist Irene Lima and the German baritone Christian Hilz begin the list of those starring in this third edition.

However, the Musical Evenings in Pena reach still further: reflecting the cultural eclecticism of Ferdinand, space is all made for the other arts, such as literature and fine arts.

The former makes its presence above all in the last concert, on 25th, whether in terms of the sung poems or also through the reading of excerpts from the knightly romance of the beautiful princess Magelone, by the Germany Romantic author Ludwig Tieck; but also featuring in the opening concert, on 4th, with the chance to hear, for example, the three pieces that Franz Liszt wrote for piano soloists, inspired on the sonnets found in ‘Rime’ by Petrarch.

The fine arts take up a role in the concerts held on 11th and 18th. Firstly, through means of the multifaceted figure of Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro (1846-1905), whose
brother, the painter Columbano, found important patrons in Ferdinand and in the Countess of Edla. Subsequently, and reflecting the no less diverse artistic personality of Alfredo Keil (1850-1907), a composer of undeniable merit while also excelling as a painter and poet, who shared a Germanic heritage and background with Ferdinand.

Hence, this forthcoming cycle, beyond its moments of musical excellence, also promises cultural experiences of great depth.

The cycle **Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena** represents a joint initiative between Parques de Sintra and CEMSP – the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth Century Musical Studies with its artistic direction under the care of the maestro and violinist Massimo Mazzeo. The Musical Evenings form part of the Parques de Sintra Erudite Music Season that begins annually in October with the cycle “Nights of Queluz – Tempest and Galanterie” and ends in June with “Reencounters – Musical memories of the Palace of Sintra”.

**Information:**

**Ticket price per concert:** €10

**Great Hall Maximum Capacity:** 80 seats

**Tickets available at:** Parques de Sintra ticket offices, [www.parquesdesintra.pt](http://www.parquesdesintra.pt), [www.blueticket.pt](http://www.blueticket.pt), FNAC, Worten, El Corte Inglés, MEO Arena, Media Markt, ACP stores, PAGAQUI network, Telecom Call Center, Sintra Tourism Office and the Lisbon Airport Tourism Office.

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The “Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena” draws upon the support of the General Directorate of Arts and counts on Antena 2 as its media partner.

**Program**
Musical Evenings in the Palace of Pena

4 March
“The musical pilgrimages of Franz Liszt”
Vasco Dantas – piano

Aged 24, Vasco Dantas is already a certainty for the next generation of Portuguese pianists. For this recital, he chose but a single a composer: Franz Liszt (1811-86), who, we should recall, played in Lisbon for Queen Maria II and Ferdinand during his visit to the country in 1845. The ‘Sonnets of Petrarch’ and the transcriptions by Liszt of works written by other composers feature among the works that Vasco Dantas is to perform.
Tickets on sale at the usual outlets or online

11 March*
“Bordalo Pinheiro: a mosaic of the musical life of Lisbon”
Ana Franco – soprano | Cátia Moreso – mezzo-soprano
João Cipriano Martins – tenor | Nuno Dias – bass
Pedro Meireles – violin | João Paulo Santos – piano

Through the music and the projection of various examples of the graphical works of Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro (illustrations/caricatures), the objective involves conveying insights into the political-social universe of Lisbon in the ‘Belle Époque’, with its epicentre in the São Carlos Theatre. In order to paint this soundscape, we here count upon a group of singers, who are all regulars on the São Carlos stage, and the violinist Pedro Meireles, accompanied by João Paulo Santos.
Tickets on sale at the usual outlets or online

18 March*
“Alfredo Keil: from painting to music”
Siphiwe McKenzie – soprano | Marco Alves dos Santos – tenor
Irene Lima – cello | João Paulo Santos – piano
The many sides to the artistic outputs of Alfredo Keil – composer of the National Anthem and the first Portuguese themed opera sung in Portuguese but also a painter, photographer and poet – serve as the banner for this concert that correspondingly approaches the variety of his musical production ranging from short pieces for the piano to the arias from his operas. Interpreting them are the singers Siphiwe McKenzie and Marco Alves dos Santos and the cellist Irene Lima with João Paulo Santos at the piano.

Tickets on sale at the usual outlets or online

* The concerts on 11th and 18th feature brief spoken introductions by the musicologist Luísa Cymbron and the pianist João Paulo Santos.

25 March

“Johannes Brahms: The Beautiful Magelone”

Christian Hilz – baritone | Tatiana Korsunskaya – piano

Lígia Roque – narration

The final concert is dedicated to the story of Princess Magelone and Count Peter of Provence as set out by Ludwig Tieck, one of the great exponents of German Romanticism, who published the novel aged 24. Excerpts from the book are read in their Portuguese translation by the actress Lígia Roque in between each one of the fifteen songs that Johannes Brahms (1833-97) composed based upon ‘Beautiful Magelone’ by Tieck, with their interpretation here in the care of Christian Hilz, a renowned specialist in the ‘Lied’ repertoire.

Tickets on sale at the usual outlets or online

INFORMATION (FOR THE PUBLIC):

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About Divino Sospiro – the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth Century Musical Studies
Divino Sospiro - the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth Century Musical Studies, with its headquarters in the National Palace of Queluz, was founded with the core objective of fostering and promoting the musical heritage associated with the Palace of Queluz, where music has always played a central role in keeping with the many dozens of serenatas and operas performed here. Hence, the Palace and its rooms correspondingly host concerts, events, conferences, symposia and colloquiums as well as masterclasses and other initiatives designed to study and restore the times and the traditions around the great musical events of the period when the Royal Family was in residence in the Palace of Queluz, simultaneously contributing towards the public enjoyment of a musical program of great quality and boosting the profile of the Palace 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 exclusively state owned company set up in 2000 in the wake of the UNESCO classification of the Cultural Landscape of Sintra as a World Heritage site. The company receives no funding from the state budget and hence the restoration and maintenance of the heritage under its management is entirely secured by the revenues generated by sales of its tickets, stores and cafeterias as well as renting out venues for events. In 2016, the areas under the management of PSML (Park and National Palace of Pena, the National Palaces of Sintra and Queluz, the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, the Moorish Castle, Palace and Gardens of Monserrate, Convent of the Capuchos and the EPAE – the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art) received a total of 2,625,011 visits with around 83% by international tourists. In 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, Parques de Sintra won the World Travel Award for Best Company for Conservation.
The PSML shareholders are the General Directorate of Treasury and Finance (representing the State), the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry, Portugal Tourism and the Municipal Council of Sintra.

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