THE “REENCOUNTERS” CYCLE RETURNS TO THE PALACE OF SINTRA IN JULY WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN AT ITS EPICENTRE

In July, the National Palace of Sintra welcomes the “Reencounters – Musical Memories in the Palace of Sintra” cycle, dedicated to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Eight concerts, every Friday and Saturday, bring to Portugal some of the greatest interpreters of the world panorama of 16th century Medieval music. The program for this year’s “Reencounters” promises a voyage through Europe and the Mediterranean.

“Reencounters”, the musical cycle dedicated to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, is returning to the National Palace of Sintra. Throughout the month of July, eight performances convey a diversity of proposals that range from flamenco through to the sacred repertoire, passing through the Germanic legends and the histories of other peoples. This edition welcomes guests of international renown arriving from Spain, Italy, France and Germany. The Compañía Flamenca “Cadencia Andaluza”, L’Arpeggiata, Ala Aurea, Odhecaton and Accademia del Piacere are the groups featuring on the line-up for this fourth edition of “Reencounters”.

The artistic direction of “Reencounters” comes from the maestro Massimo Mazzeo, who advanced how “this year, the cycle takes the Mediterranean as a point of expansion, as well as everything that the Mediterranean brought to those countries that look upon this birthplace of civilisation”. On the Central Patio and in the Swan Room, in the oldest royal palace in the country, every Friday and Saturday in July, there is a return of the medieval, 16th century sonorities adjusted to the historical context of this Palace. The “Reencounters” repertoires reflect the tastes prevailing in the late Middle Ages, through to the end of the 16th century.
The inaugural concerts in the “Reencounters” cycle are in the hands of Compañía Flamenca “Cadencia Andaluza”, made up of young artists who breathe the life into these vibrant performances. On 6 and 7 July, there is this celebration of the genuine classical art of flamenco, spanning not only the music but also the dance. "Senderos Flamencos", on Friday, and “We Are Magic”, on Saturday, transform the Central Palace of Sintra Patio into a flamenco tablao, an ancient tradition that emerged from the exchanges ongoing between Arabs, Jews, Andalusians and Roma peoples.

On 13 July, the group L’Arpeggiata, under the musical conducting of Christina Pluhar, presents a concert that is the foundation stone for this entire cycle and from which all others irradiate and spread. The repertoire on this evening takes us off on a voyage through the popular musical traditions of the Mediterranean region as encapsulated by the concert title: “Mediterranean – Music from Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Macedonia”.

From Germany arrives Ala Aurea who, on 14 July, improvise around the most universal of European legends and which is intrinsically bound up with Germanic culture: the Parsifal. The concept created by Maria Jonas for the performance “‘Cundrie la Surziere’ – A medieval trajectory in search of Chrétien de Troyes and Wolfram Von Eschenbach” consists of the recovery of the oldest known texts on the theme and on improvisation based around the scarce Medieval melodies that survived down to contemporary times.

On 20 and 21 July, the National Palace of Sintra hosts the vocal ensemble Odhecaton, which recovers the sacred and profane repertoires of the Renaissance. “‘Flos Florum’ – Numeric symbology and Marian devotion in Franco-Flemish polyphony”, on 20 July, is dedicated to Marian devotion in French culture and its polyphonic music. On Saturday, 21, the Italian ensemble returns for the concert “The Humours of Orlando di Lasso” that invokes one of the most representative authors of 16th century polyphony, Orlando di Lasso. This tribute to the composer explores his multiple facets and the versatility with
which, through his music, he proved able to express the most varied of moods in human nature, from melancholy to spirituality while also extending to express the bloody cruelty of mundane life.

**Accademia del Piacere**, with its well-established international reputation, closes the “Reencounters” with two programs that propose two dives into different Hispanic sonorities. On 27 July, “Rediscovering Spain – “Fantasías, diferencias y glosas” in the Spanish music of the 16th and 17th centuries” recovering the practices and the musical readings of the instrumentalists of the aforementioned centuries in accordance with the most rigorous of historical criteria. On the final day of this cycle, 28 July, **Accademia del Piacere** is to perform a duality of musical expression in a Seville overwhelmed by humanist enlightenment set against the obscurity of counter reform, oscillating around comedy, sensuality and mysticism and spirituality. The “**Hispalis Splendens’ – Music from the golden century of Seville**” program thus closes the fourth edition of the “Reencounters”.

The “**Reencounters – Musical Memories in the Palace of Sintra**” is a joint initiative between Parques de Sintra and CEMSP – the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth Century Musical Studies, under the artistic direction of the maestro Massimo Mazzeo. “**Reencounters – Musical Memories in the Palace of Sintra**” provides continuity to the fourth Erudite Music Season of Parques de Sintra, which began in March with the “Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena”, and ends with the cycle “Nights of Queluz – Tempest and Galanterie” in October and November.

The music cycle “**Reencounters – Musical Memories in the Palace of Sintra**” returns to the National Palace of Sintra for its fourth edition between 6 and 28 July. Organised by Parques de Sintra, with artistic direction by Massimo Mazzeo, Divino Sospiro – the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth Century Music Studies, the 2018 Program for the “Reencounters” cycle features eight concerts
that are taking place on the Central Patio and in the Swan Room and performed by the groups Compañía Flamenca “Cadencia Andaluza”, L’Arpeggiata, Ala Aurea, Odhecaton and Accademia del Piacere.

In what shall be its fourth consecutive edition, dedicated to the Medieval and Renaissance repertoire, “the cycle this year takes the Mediterranean as its epicentre, with a small detour through the German Medieval legends that provide us with a privileged point of view over the opposites prevailing in the same epoch on the European continent”, explained Massimo Mazzeo.

Following the “Musical Evenings” at the National Palace of Pena, in March, the “Reencounters” is the second cycle in the fourth Parques de Sintra music season that closes at the National Palace of Queluz in November with the Nights of Queluz – Tempest and Galanterie.