

Os Músicos do Tejo

Founded in 2005 and directed by Marcos Magalhães and Marta Araújo, the ensemble Os Músicos do Tejo has established a respected position in the portuguese early music scene. In 2023, they celebrated their 18th anniversary in a philosophical-musical event with the presence of Peter Sloterdijk. Their work has been guided by two complementary axes: presenting unpublished or inaccessible works of portuguese musical heritage, but also developing innovative and transdisciplinary projects with contemporary artists, so as to creatively reflect on music today.

In their career, they produced five operas in partnership with the CCB (*La Spinalba*, *Il Trionfo d'Amore*, *Lo Frate 'Nnamorato*, *Le Carnaval et la Folie*, and *Paride ed Elena*), performed in numerous concerts in Portugal and abroad (Lisbon, Porto, Évora, Mafra, Castelo Branco, Vigo, Brest, Paris, Goa, Sastmala, Madrid and Prague, among others) and recorded six CD's: *Sementes do Fado* (2008), *Árias de Luísa Todi* (2010), *La Spinalba* by Almeida (2011), *Il Trionfo d'Amore* (2015), both by Almeida, *From Baroque to Fado* (2017) and *Il Mondo della Luna* by Avondano (2020).

Since 2011, they have been recording exclusively for the Naxos label. All CD's had excellent reviews nationally (*Público*, *Diário de Notícias*, *Expresso*, *JL*, among others) and internationally (*Diapason*, *Classica*, *Opera*, *Songlines*, *Ritmo*, *Scherzo*, *Forum Opera*, *Klassik*, *Musicweb*, *Merker*, among others). *Il Trionfo d'Amore* was shortlisted for the prestigious *Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik*. With *Il Mondo della Luna* they were nominated for the best classic album at the Play Awards for Portuguese music 2021.

Also at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Os Músicos do Tejo have presented several concerts, including *Dido and Aeneas* by Purcell, *As Filhas do Fogo* (in collaboration with director Pedro Costa) and *Do Barroco ao Fado*, with Ana Quintans and Ricardo Ribeiro. These last two programs have had several presentations, of which the ones in Madrid - Cineteca de Madrid and Auditorio Nacional de Musica - stand out.

In Portugal, they participated in several events, such as the Póvoa de Varzim International Music Festival, CisterMúsica in Alcobaça, Coimbra Arts Festival, Music in the Cloisters/Eborae Musica, Science in Music - Tejo no Thalia, among others.

In 2017, Os Músicos do Tejo had great success at the Festival de Herne, in a concert with the participation of Joana Seara and João Fernandes that was broadcast live on the German radio WDR3.

In 2018 they revived two important works of the portuguese musical heritage, the opera *As Guerras de Alecrim e Mangerona* (also recorded and to be published in 2024) and the oratory *La Giuditta* by F.A. Almeida.

Also noteworthy are more unconventional concert programs that connect music with theatre, history and literature such as *Venice and the Limits of Morality* with actress Luísa Cruz and *To Play or Not to Play*, a program on Shakespeare, with João Fernandes as singer and actor, recorded on DVD.

Recent relevant projects were concerts at the Almagro Festival in Spain, Marvão Festival and *As Filhas do Fogo* at the Porto/Post/Doc Festival. *As Filhas do Fogo*, a multi-disciplinary movie show created in collaboration with the film director Pedro Costa has evolved into a short movie that was premiered in the Festival de Cannes (along with the last movie by Jean-Luc Godard), with great success.

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