

## ■ The Moscow Piano Quartet in Cascais

Alexei Eremine\*

Everything started when completing the Advanced Course, Guenrikh and I founded a piano trio, along with a colleague and close friend who unfortunately emigrated to the U.S. shortly thereafter. Then came the idea of creating a quartet with piano. With Andrey Kevorkov (violin) and Timofey Bekasov (violin) we created the Moscow Piano Quartet, which played its first concert on January 24, 1990 at the Ermolov House-Museum in Moscow, marking not only a crucial step for the Quartet, as to the cultural life of Moscow.

The following year, the composition of the group was changed again and it was with Alexei Tolpygo and Andrey Ratnikov that we played twice in succession and at the festival of S. Richter December Evenings in Moscow and accepted the invitation of our colleague and friend Luis Cunha to move to Portugal in order to teach and to play concerts in the Escola Profissional de Arcos do Estoril. This call caused us much excitement, because we would work together.

At first it was not all easy. Our ideas about the work did not coincide with those of who had called us. A quartet with piano was ultimately not needed and we had to be viewed only as teachers. This started a conflict in which the City Council of Cascais was on our side and gave us the title of Resident Quartet with ten concerts a year, which we hold since then. At the time there was still no Centro Cultural, so we played in the Museu do Mar, the Museu Condes de Castro Guimarães, the Hotel Palácio ... We conquered an enthusiastic audience that has accompanied us over seventeen years. We could say that this was one of our great achievements. Always have the room filled at our concerts. In 2001 we received the Medalha de Mérito Cultural do Concelho de Cascais.

The performers were changing over the years and in 2000 we realised that inviting someone from Moscow was complicated and practically impossible. We started searching for musicians here and the last change came in 2005 for the composition we have now. Both Alexandre Delgado and José Pereira were very good acquisitions. Alexander is not only a musician, but also a composer, author of radio programs and a music *connoisseur*. He is still a very interesting and charismatic man. His opening statements of the Quartet captivate the audience in the first seconds. José was my student at the Higher Academy class of chamber music and brought a young influence to the Quartet.

\* Pianist of the Moscow Piano Quartet, teaching at the Academia Superior de Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa.

**Figure 1 – The Moscow Piano Quartet**



From the beginning, the Quartet has achieved its main objective: to disclose all written works for violin, violet, cello and piano, from the classical period to the present day, including the less known ones. We have played more than a dozen first-audition works, some of which were dedicated to us by composers such as Luis Tinoco, Eurico Carrapatoso and Patricio Silva. However, we do not limit ourselves only to the works of the quartet. We vary our repertoire, including quintets, sextets, both for strings, as well as woodwind or brass and percussion instruments, inviting a wide variety of performers.<sup>1</sup>

We played concerts throughout Europe, Russia and Japan, often collaborating with artists such as Claudio Ahriman, Natalia Gutman, the Borodin Quartet (it's impossible not to note the influence of his cellist, Valentin Berlinsky, in our Quartet, with regard to careful tuning, the wealth of sounds and deep knowledge of the works played), Mikhail Shmidt, Elizabeth Keusch, Antonio Rosado, António Saiote and Paulo Gaio Lima.

## **Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.myspace.com/moscowpianoquartet>, accessed on 29.09.2010.