

## **Stories with Music... Music with Stories: an inclusive project for audience training**

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*Contos com Música... Música com Contos* is a project with two performing aspects - stories with music and commentated chamber music concerts - being complemented with educational measures. Initiated in 2003 by the Academia de Música de Viana do Castelo, it is dedicated to the creation and training of youngsters and children audiences, in strategic interaction with the community of Minho-Lima.

The project's main aim is to develop training for youngsters and children audiences through regular and structured performative activities in conjunction with educational communities, thus contributing to the knowledge of musical repertoire of the world and to the valorisation of other cultures, by using a perceptible approach. Using a multidisciplinary model that explores the potentials of a narrative/musical repertoire, it aims to encourage contemporary musical creation by commissioning new works to Portuguese composers or those living in Portugal, giving priority to cooperation with foreign countries of Portuguese or Ibero-American expression, using texts of writers of such countries. The project markets both the Portuguese and world musical heritage, promotes close awareness of cultural identities, focuses on the artistic quality of planning and interpretation, values the activity of the new generation of performers and the integration of migrant musicians, and promotes the circulation of musicians and works in Portugal and abroad, especially in Galicia.

This project addresses itself to the educational communities of primary and secondary schools in the municipalities of Viana do Castelo, Ponte de Lima, Paredes de Coura; the educational communities of the professional and vocational music schools in Viana do Castelo and elsewhere; and the remaining student population of those locations, especially higher education, and the general public.

The themes are: 1. Musical story - Constructed artistic work that comprehensively combines oral narration, pantomime, occasional theater or dance, with music. The selection of stories that are to be presented favors texts that address universal values of citizenship and that enable the actual knowledge of cultural identities; 2. Commented concerts - Starting from a formal concert situation, the arranged repertoire frames itself within the cultural context of the time, highlighting the most important features of the composers' musical language and the musical elements of their countries' traditional music, or the influence that it undergoes and the way in which sound materials from other cultures are addressed; 3. Related Activities - Processed

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in the form of lectures, exhibitions, workshops and post-concert meetings with composers and writers, by way of animation and interaction with the public, providing a real contact with creative artists.

The project's principal strategies are the strengthening of regional articulation and cooperation, presenting a regular and systematic cultural offer that involves working with various municipalities. Regarding internal dynamics, the aim is to innovate and to present multidisciplinary artistic proposals, valuing contemporary creation, in an intensive dialogue with schools and artists. It is an inclusive project, particularly developed for the resident populations in Alto Minho, in conjunction with the educational communities. In the field of cultural management, one seeks to professionalise all aspects with regard to the production and dissemination of events, investing in marketing services and in the qualification and certification of the human resources that are involved.

The following musical stories are included in first absolute audition:

- *How to make orange colour [Como se faz cor de laranja]* for narrator and 17 musicians, with music by Pedro Faria Gomes and homonymous text by António Torrado, for instrumental ensemble and narrator. World premiere on 23.03.2007. Teatro Diogo Bernardes, Ponte de Lima, FAM Ensemble. Narration: José Lourenço. Direction: Cesário Costa.

- *The tear and the star [A lágrima e a estrela]* for ensemble and narrator about the story *The maker of lights [O fazedor de luzes]* of Mozambican writer Mia Couto and music by Fernando C. Lapa. World premiere on 29.03.2008. Teatro Municipal Sá de Miranda, FAM Ensemble. Narration: Joana Solnado and Marco Antonio Del Carlo. Direction: Javier Viceiro and José Martins.

- *Story of a seagull and the cat that taught her to fly [História de uma gaivota e do gato que a ensinou a voar]* for 18 musicians and a children's chorus ad lib, music by Sérgio Azevedo, about the homonymous text of the Chilean writer Luís Sepúlveda. World premiere on 13.02.2009. Teatro Municipal Sá de Miranda, Viana do Castelo, FAM Ensemble. Narration: Tiago Fernandes. Direction: Javier Viceiro.

- *Stories of a thousand drops of dreams [Estórias de mil gotas de sonhos]* for ensemble and narrator about *Ynari, the girl of the five braids [Ynari, a menina das cinco tranças]* of Angolan writer Ondjaki and music of Jean-François Lézé. World premiere on 19.11.2009. Teatro Municipal Sá de Miranda, FAM Ensemble. Narration: Daniel Martinho. Direction: Javier Viceiro.

The project is financed by the Ministério da Cultura - Direcção Geral das Artes [Ministry of Culture - General Arts Directorate] its partners being the municipalities of Viana do Castelo, Ponte de Lima and Paredes de Coura. This project, developed in culturally disadvantaged contexts, provides the living experience of regular artistic expression, promoting a dynamic process of learning through consumption and fundamental values of citizenship, such as knowledge of and respect for cultural diversity.

**Table 1 - Public attendance.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>N.º of Spectators</b>
Contos com Música... Música com Contos 2003	2750
Contos com Música... Música com Contos 2004	2407
Contos com Música... Música com Contos 2006	4252
Contos com Música... Música com Contos 2007	4130
Contos com Música... Música com Contos 2008	3323
Contos com Música... Música com Contos 2009	In process

Source: AMVC. Annual activity report

In 2005, the project was interrupted due to lack of national funding.