

■ The Association Sons da Lusofonia

Carlos Martins*

The idea of creating the Association Sons da Lusofonia (ASL)¹ emerged from the musical experience of Portuguese saxophonist Carlos Martins, initially bringing together artists from diverse origins, namely Africans, Brazilians and Portuguese. The practical realisation of this idea took place in early 1996, with the legal establishment of the Association. Already for several years, the Association develops work of enrichment of the common heritage of Portuguese-speaking peoples, fostering multiculturalism and interculturality, promoting diversity in all its areas of activity (Orchestra Sons da Lusofonia, Ethnomusicology, Pedagogy, organization and production of shows and other events), also with regard to its implementation among the various communities living in the greater Lisbon area.

Since 1998, the larger visibility of the Orquestra Sons da Lusofonia led to the realisation of several shows in Portugal and abroad. A major objective of the Association is to contribute to the cultural cooperation between Portugal and the Portuguese-speaking countries, promoting the development of a cultural identity based on common traditions, in a future-oriented way.

Pedagogy and Cooperation through the arts, particularly in the area of music and expressive behaviour, serve as privileged vehicles of communication, in consolidating the network of cultural and technical cooperation that we would like to see as an 'Intercultural Forum' in the city of Lisbon.

The creation of the event *Lisboa Mistura* has made the Association open doors to peoples from other, non-lusophone cultures that have migrated to Portugal. OPA (Oficina Portátil de Artes [Portable Arts Workshop]) has provided learning and performance opportunities to youth communities in the center of Lisbon.

The activities developed by the Association are part of the following areas: Pedagogy; global education through the arts; cultural and technical cooperation; conception and production of media (books, music, videos); creation and promotion of exchanges; design of major events and festivals.

Notas

¹ Available at www.sonsdalousofonia.com, accessed on 23.06.2010.

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