

ALGARVE HISTORY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2018

NOVEMBER

**MONDAY 12 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Tavira** *and*

**TUESDAY 13 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Lagoa**

**Plate Tectonics: continents that move
with Ludo Broothaers**

SUNDAY 18 at 16h00 Quintinha da Música €25
*The Lacerda Quartet (Alex Stewart (violin),
Paul Wakabayashi (viola), Regina Aires
(violin) and Ajda Zupancic (guest cellist)
playing music by Joseph Haydn and Ludwig
van Beethoven.*

**TUESDAY 27 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Lagoa** *and*

**FRIDAY 30 at 11h00 Municipal Library
Tavira**

**Why did the Jews leave Portugal?
with Peter Kingdon Booker**

DECEMBER

SUNDAY 9 at 16h00 Quintinha da Música €25
*Lucjan Luc (piano) playing music by Brahms,
Ravel and Debussy*

**MONDAY 10 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Tavira** *and*

**TUESDAY 11 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Lagoa**

**The History of Chocolate
with Regina Shrimpton**

**TUESDAY 18 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Lagoa** *and*

**FRIDAY 21 at 11h00 Municipal Library
Tavira**

**The Famous Five Algarvians
with Peter Kingdon Booker**

SUNDAY 23 at 16h00 Quintinha da Música €25
*Olga Heikkila (soprano) and Irene Ainstein
(piano) play arias from the operas*

Plate Tectonics: Continents that Move

Many people think our seven continents make an immutable and perpetual constellation on the map of the world. In fact, there are more of them than just those seven. And they are not static at all. They do move, though not noticeably within a human lifetime, not even within the whole of human history. It is understood now that the earth's crust consists of a number of giant slabs, or plates, that extremely slowly bump into or slide along each other, dragging the extant continents with them. In these processes parts of the earth's crust disappear into the inner earth, while elsewhere new crust is being generated. These processes are active at present and have been so for the last four billion years. They enable us to explain the formation of all mountain chains on this globe. They also affect our daily environment as they are the reason why volcanoes spew lava everywhere and earthquakes turn cities into rubble, not to forget the dreaded tsunamis. Plate tectonics was scientifically accepted only in the 1960s, and has turned the history of the earth into a movie for geologists.

Why did the Jews Leave Portugal?

Most people are aware of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492, but where did they go from Spain? Did they arrive in Portugal, and how long were they permitted to remain? Why was the Portuguese government ambivalent about the situation? Did the accession of a new king make any difference? And what about the forcible exile of Jewish children to islands in the middle of the Atlantic - who knows about that? Did their expulsion have any effect on the attacks on the Algarvian coast? And lastly, when did Portugal permit the Jewish community to return? The whole story of the Jewish experience in Portugal is a long one, and has as much to do with the Christian faith as with Portugal's parlous economic situation. The three hundred years of persecution of the Jewish community in Portugal are years of intolerance on a grand scale, and in this talk, Peter Booker begins the story.

Alexander Stewart (violin) Born in London in 1964, Alexander Stewart began his studies at the age of six with his father, Walter Stewart. He was granted a Double Top Music Scholarship at King's School, Canterbury, studying first with Clarence Myerscough and later Felix Andriewsky. He graduated from the Guildhall School of Music as a violin performer and teacher. Awarded a scholarship by the Polish Government, he studied at the Szymanowsky Music Academy in Katowice(1986-88). He has given numerous concerts and recitals in England, France, Spain, Portugal, and Turkey and has recorded both for radio and television. Alexander made his debut in Lisbon in 1987 with a live broadcast of the Saint-Saëns *Havanaise* for violin and orchestra with the former Orquestra da Radiodifusão Portuguesa. Later Alexander participated as soloist in a cycle of Bach's *Brandenburg Concerti* in Teatro Camões in Lisbon as well as performing the Bach *Violin Concerto for two violins* with Nicholas Chumachenko. Other projects included an invitation by the Portuguese National Ballet Company in Lisbon to perform Stravinsky's *Duo Concertante* with the soloists from the Zurich Ballet. An avid interest in promoting contemporary Portuguese music led in 2015 to the World Première Performance of Pedro Teixeira da Silva's *Concerto for two violins* with Portuguese violinist António Figueiredo at the Palácio de Ajuda in Lisbon. Together with Portuguese pianist Philippe Marques, Alexander recorded and released on CD the two violin and piano sonatas by the Portuguese Modernist composer Ruy Coelho. Alexander is presently one of the leaders of the Orquestra Sinfónica Portuguesa and first violin and founding member of both Lacerda String Quartet and Trio Aeternus.

Regina Aires (violin) Born in Funchal, Portugal, in 1962, Regina Aires studied at the Music Conservatoire in Lisbon, where she graduated in 1981. At the same time she had chamber music and violin interpretation classes with François Broos and Alberto Lysy, having been awarded the second prize at the Braga National Competition in 1978. She continued her studies in Paris with Gérard Poulet and Annie Jodry on a scholarship from the Gulbenkian Foundation. Regina Aires has been a member of several international orchestras, such as the European Countries Orchestra and the Youth Orchestra of the Mediterranean Countries where she was assistant concert master, and had the opportunity to work with such remarkable conductors as Jean-Jacques Werner, Mario Venzago and Michel Tabachnik. She has given recitals in Paris and all over Portugal, having performed as a soloist with the Orquestra D. Fernando. She has also been a member of several other Portuguese orchestras, namely the Orquestra da Radiodifusão Portuguesa, the Orquestra Gulbenkian, Regie Sinfonia and the Orquestra do Teatro Nacional de São Carlos. Since 1993 she has been a member of the Orquestra Sinfónica Portuguesa. She was a founding member of the Lacerda String Quartet in 1990.

Paul Wakabayashi (viola) A native of California, Paul Wakabayashi studied violin with Jenny Rudin and viola with Bernard Zaslav(formerly of the Fine Arts Quartet). At the Manhattan School of Music, he worked closely with the American String Quartet and studied conducting with Glen Cortese and Allan Gilbert, being awarded the Kotschalk prize for excellence in chamber music. A specialist in chamber music, his teachers include members of the Amadeus, Cleveland, Juilliard, Emerson, Guarneri, Griller and Hungarian String Quartets. He was a founding member of the Cypress Quartet as well as the Myriad Quartet (top prize winner of the Carmel International Chamber Music Competition) as well as a member of the Quarteto Olissipo and Trio Olissipo where the repertoire included not only the standard classical cannon but also quartets of Berio, Schulhoff, Bartok, Golijov and Ligeti. As a Classical and Baroque violist, he has performed with Divino Sospiro, Músicos do Tejo, Ensemble Baroque do Chiado, Flor da Música and Ensemble Dom Joao V. He has given master classes in Faro, Mirandela and Viana do Castelo and for the past three years has played and taught in the Adriatic Chamber Music Festival. He currently teaches viola and chamber music at the Academia Nacional Superior de Orquestra in Lisbon Portugal.

Ajda Zupančič (cello) From Slovenia in the former Yugoslavia, Ajda won several first prizes in cello and chamber music competitions at the Ljubljana Music Conservatory. She was also a member of both the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra and *Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester*. She studied at the Winterthur Conservatory in Switzerland with Susanne Basler, while working with several orchestras including: Ljubljana RTV Symphony Orchestra, Zurich Symphony Orchestra, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Lisbon Metropolitan Orchestra, Oporto Orchestra and Sinfonietta de Lisboa. In 1995 she won the *Prémio Jovens Músicos* Competition based in Portugal as well as the Maestro Silva Pereira Prize, which gave her the opportunity to study with Lluís Claret. She obtained her Master's degree in Music Teaching at the Lisbon Escola Superior da Música. She has been living in Portugal since 1993 and working as Assistant-Principal cello of the Portuguese Symphony Orchestra also teaching in several music schools, including the D. Dinis Conservatory of Music.

