

ALGARVE HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY 15 at 17h00 at Boa Esperança €25
Duo Lacerda: Alexander Stewart and Regina Aires,
Violin Odyssey
A commentary with musical examples

MONDAY 9 at 18h00 (Tavira) and
TUESDAY 10 at 18h00 (Lagoa)

Amazon deforestation: Problems and Solutions
Is there any hope? with François Luís Blanc

SUNDAY 22 at 17h00 at Quintinha da Música 25
Sul'Arte Quintet With José Gomes (violin), Helena
Duarte, (Violin), Ângela Silva (viola) Michail
Shumov, (cello) with Joana Vieira Shumova (piano)
playing music by Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and
Elfrida Andrée

TUESDAY 24 at 18h00 (Lagoa) and
FRIDAY 27 at 11h00 (Tavira)
Empire Adrift with Peter Kingdon Booker

Bookings and directions for the concerts:
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Empire Adrift The flight of the Portuguese Court to Brazil in November, 1807 was in its way shocking. The Portuguese queen was in the process of escaping from the French troops sent by Napoleon Bonaparte. This escape heralded the only instance in history of a European court conducting its business from a locality outside Europe, although there were plans in 1940 for George VI of Britain to flee to Canada if necessary. The mad D Maria I arrived in Brazil in early 1808, and her family remained there until 1820. Why did they remain so long away from Portugal? What was the effect of their prolonged absence? Who governed Portugal in their absence, and with what effect? This episode in history has become even more famous through the fado of Amália Rodrigues *Lisboa, não sejas francesa*, which first appeared in a show in 1952. And in the light of current developments in Lisbon, with the influx of French fleeing the tax regime of their homeland, the theme is ironically appropriate today. Apparently, one French immigrant wishes to show the Portuguese how they should be cooking their *bacalhau!* In the years 1808 - 1820, Portugal and Portuguese culture were under threat not only from the French but ironically also from Portugal's principal allies, the British. Now, as then, perhaps we should be singing *Lisboa, sê portuguesa*. In this presentation, Peter Booker looks at the circumstances of the voyage to Brazil, and how the Portuguese Empire in Brazil was cut loose, and drifted away from its homeland.

Amazon Deforestation

The immense challenges to the maintenance of the sustainability of the earth's ecosystems include: the disappearance of many animal species; the disruption to the health of human and animal species; changes in the evolutionary process of biodiversity; the privatisation of seeds; the loss of national food sovereignty; the loss of primary forests and of natural medicinal plants; the spread of monocultures and of intensive agriculture with toxic pesticides and herbicides; and the development of transgenic seeds and piracy of plant forms.

Since the election of Jair Bolosonaro as President of Brazil, Amazonian deforestation has increased by 258%, according to a satellite survey. Several measures have been considered for the maintenance of the Amazon rainforest, including the acceptance and continuation of the Kyoto Protocol through a fund established by national governments to deliver the billions needed for the developing world to deal with climate change and stop deforestation. These governments have yet to establish a way of providing that money.

The **REDD** agreement has established a mechanism to protect tropical forests while simultaneously safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples and their biodiversity. It is intended to promote: the management and conservation of natural resources through constant technical supervision; the continuity of the processes and programmes for the implementation of global environmental agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol, which was restated at the Paris Conference; and the protection of microclimates, fauna, flora, ecological levels and markets. The Amerindian Communities have been accepted as major players in the conservation of biodiversity through their holistic valuation of nature. Their indigenous territory represents 25% of the land surface of the Earth, and contains 80% of the biodiversity. The indigenous peoples are the guardians of nature through the ALBA group (Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela), defending the rights of Mother Earth (Madre Pachamama) in the UN. The role of the NGOs, which have an integrated vision for the management and protection of natural resources, is to work through the indigenous peoples. The best guardians of the preservation of the natural environment are the indigenous communities of the Amazon. Their way of life can protect ecosystems in general, their microclimates, and their local fauna and flora through their social organisation the establishment of plant and seed banks.

Do those measures work? The purpose of this conference is to analyse them and evaluate their efficacy.

DUO LACERDA

Violinists Alexander Stewart and Regina Aires from **Duo Lacerda** return to the Algarve to take their audience on a whistle-stop journey of the history of the violin. *Violin Odyssey* will be performed at 17h00 on Sunday 15, September at Boa Esperança, near Tavira. When Alex's father, himself a violinist, heard that Alex wanted pocket money, his advice was that the young violinist should go out onto the streets of London and do some busking so that he would realise how difficult it is to earn a living as a musician. Born in London in 1964, Alexander Stewart began his studies at the age of six with his father Walter Stewart; later in Portugal he studied with Maxim Jacobsen and Vasco Barbosa. Alex has given various concerts and recitals in England, Poland and Portugal, and has recorded both for radio and television. In May 2004, Alexander was invited by the National Ballet Company in Lisbon to perform Stravinsky's *Duo Concertante* with the soloists from the Zurich Ballet. He is presently one of the concert masters in the *Orquestra Sinfónica Portuguesa*. He is the first violin and founding member of the Lacerda String Quartet, a founding member of the Aeternus Trio and a half of the **Duo Lacerda** with his wife, Regina Aires, who plays second violin with the Lacerda Quartet. **Duo Lacerda** offers a highly original musical odyssey covering 300 years of the development of the violin. They will describe how the instrument is built, how the bow developed and how the violin changed in response to audience demand. In between the historical descriptions will be musical illustrations and anecdotes relating to the lives of the composers. They offer showpieces from the works of composers of the Classical, Baroque, Romantic and 20th century periods, and from nationalities such as the German, Polish, Italian and French. It will be for the audience to guess the identity of the different composers. Odysseus took 10 years to complete his odyssey as he returned to Ithaca after the Trojan War. **Duo Lacerda** will complete their odyssey in 90 minutes. Drinks will be available before and after the concert. Tapas will be served after the concert.

Sul'Arte

Sul'Arte String Quartet was formed in 2012 by professional musicians working in the Algarve, violinists José Gomes and Helena Duarte, Ângela Silva on viola and cellist Mikhail Shumov. The quartet focuses on schools in order to present classical music to a new generations of listeners and has participated in other Algarve concert events, such as the MED Festival. From this moment the concert was enriched with the participation of the Quartet of Strings Sul'Arte, reports a critic. The quartet transmitted its passion to the choir and the voices were released in an wonderful crescendo. Over the last two years, with the added expertise of Joana Shumova the quartet has also been able to present works for quintet.

José Miguel Gomes was born in 1984 in Braga, and began his musical studies at age six at the Calouste Gulbenkian Music Conservatory in Braga. After completing his eighth grade at the same school, he enrolled at the Lisbon Higher School of Music (ESML) studying with Professor Khatchatur Amirkhonian and professors Stephen Bull and Olga Prats. At age sixteen, he played solo with the Orquestra do Norte and has played in various Portuguese orchestras. At present, he teaches violin at Olhão Conservatory.

Helena Duarte began her musical studies at age twelve at the Vocational School of Music in Viana do Castelo. In 2001 she entered ESML, and after graduating in 2005, she participated in various master classes (violin, chamber music, contemporary music and improvisation). She has played with several Portuguese orchestras. Since 2006 she has been teacher of violin at the Algarve Regional Conservatory Maria Campina (CRAMC), and is now deputy head of the second violins at the Orquestra Clássica do Sul.

Born in 1984 in Guimarães, Ângela Silva began her viola studies at age twelve in the Professional Art School of Vale do Ave (ARTAVE) under the guidance of Professor José Manuel David and Professor Jorge Alves. A prizewinner in the 2001 "Young Musicians Prize" chamber music competition in Chamber Music. Ângela has worked with orchestras in Portugal and Brazil and currently is lead viola in the Orquestra Clássica do Sul.

Moscow born Mikhail Shumov studied with Zoia Kuimova and Igor Gavrysh and went on to earn a Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction from the London Royal College of Music (RCM). He won prizes in several solo contests and has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in many countries. He is now lead cello at the Orquestra Clássica do Sul.

Joana Vieira Shumova began her piano studies at CRAMC under Prof Oxana Anikeeva. And went on to ESML and RCM. An international prizewinner in many competitions, Joana has performed throughout Europe. Together with husband Mikhail as Caminus Duo, she also performs cello sonatas. She has translated into Portuguese two piano manuals for children under seven years of age (they have two young children), and she also teaches and is répéteur for several choirs.