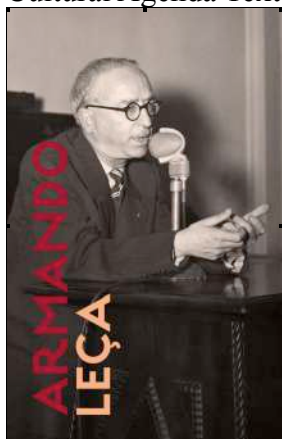


Cultural Agenda Text



Exhibition: "Armando Leça: Portuguese music and the new media"

Date: 18 May to 31 October 2012

Location: Museu da Música Portuguesa,
Casa Verdades Faria,

The exhibition focuses on the collaboration that the composer, folklorist and ethnographer Armando Leça (1881-1977) had with the emerging cultural industries in the early decades of the twentieth century in Portugal. Armando Leça was committed to the national question in music, having participated in the construction and dissemination of the "Portuguese song," a poetic-musical genre that, in his view, reflected the character and soul of the Portuguese people.

His career is indicative of the opportunities and new challenges for professional musicians in a society in frank mobility, after the dissolution of monarchical order. Being attentive to the demands of his time, Armando Leça dialogued with different levels of music making in Portugal, being a pioneer in exploring new means of mass communication, such as cinema, radio and -later on- the recording industry.

The exhibition constitutes both a text and a context for the presentation and discussion of a set of research and study projects that have been developed at the Instituto de Etnomusicologia: Centro de Estudos em Música e Dança. It gathers documentation that is currently scattered among different institutions and explores some of the following aspects: the organization of seminars in turn of the topics "Music and cultural industries in the early decades twentieth century Portugal", "Music ethnography in Portugal" and "Sound patrimony in Portugal: protagonists, fundings and institutions"-; the projection of the silent film *Os Fidalgos da Casa Mourisca* (1921) with 'live' interpretations of Armando Leça's musical compositions; the release of partially edited sound recordings that Armando Leça made between 1939 and 1940; and the release of the book "Armando Leça e a Música Portuguesa (1910-40)" (cf. the Museum's educational program).

During the exhibition, a computer application will allow for the hearing of hundreds of sound recordings of rural music as recorded by Armando Leça between 1939 and 1940 in 82 locations from the Algarve to Trás-os-Montes, as well as the viewing of the AEG K4 recorder, tapes and field notes of the author. This collection, that has recently been digitalized by the Phonographic Archive of Vienna under the patronage of the Municipality of Matosinhos, gathers the first sound recordings of non-commercial music performed in mainland Portugal that are currently known.

Professor Maria do Rosario Pestana