

BANDA SINFÓNICA PORTUGUESA

Located in Porto, the Portuguese Symphonic Band (BSP) had its presentation concert on January 1, 2005, in Rivoli, Teatro Municipal do Porto. Its first CD was also recorded there. BSP has since received from Culturporto and, later, PortoLazer significant support to disseminate and expand its project. In April 2010, BSP released the album “A Portuguesa” (The Portuguese) which contains exclusively pieces by Portuguese composers featured in a concert held in the auditorium of the Faculty of Engineering of Porto. Since then, four other CDs have been recorded, in 2011 (Traveler), 2012 (Hamlet), 2013 (Oasis), and 2014 (Grand Concerto pour Orchestra d’Harmonie), all of them with the inclusion of at least a Portuguese work. A sixth CD it was recorded in 2015 about the Roman Trilogy Romane of Ottorino Respighi.

From January 2007, BSP has been invited by the Foundation House of Music (Porto) to perform regularly at the Guilhermina Suggia room, where a set of original works by Portuguese and foreign composers, several of them on first hearing, has been played. BSP promotes, in most of its concerts, the presentation of talented national and international soloists. Some presentations also include the participation of several choirs of the city of Porto. Other aims of BSP are the educational initiative to organise Instrument Masterclasses, with renowned artistic merit teachers, and Band Management Programmes, counting already sixteen editions, coordinated by prestigious conductors such as Marcel van Bree, Jan Cober (Netherlands), Douglas Bostock (England), José Rafael Vilaplana (Spain) and Eugene Corporon (USA).

Furthermore, internationally renowned conductors such as the above mentioned Jan Cober, Douglas Bostock, José Rafael Vilaplana, and Eugene Corporon, in addition to Alex Schillings, directed BSP with great success, having considered this project extraordinary and of enormous cultural wealth to Portugal. Moreover, BSP has received so far the best reviews not only from the general public, but also from prestigious national and foreign musicians. Portuguese conductors such as Fernando Marinho, Luís Carvalho, Avelino Ramos, António Costa, Alberto Roque, Pedro Neves, José Eduardo Gomes and Hélder Tavares have also directed BSP.

In April 2008, BSP won the first prize at the II International Contest of Bands of La Senia (Spain), in the first section, and, in October 2011, it won the 60th anniversary edition of the World Music Contest in Kerkrade (Netherlands), an event considered by many as “the world championship of bands”. BSP won in the top category (Concert Division), with the highest score of all editions.



Guest Soloist – Henk van Twillert



Henk van Twillert is an internationally renowned saxophonist with an inexhaustible passion for music. Specialising in the baritone saxophone, he graduated with distinction from the Sweelinck Academy of Music in Amsterdam, where he studied under Ed Bogaard, a leading classical saxophonist and pioneer in the field. While studying, Van Twillert also founded with Bart Kok, the Amsterdam Saxophone Quartet (1979), thereby starting his career as a professional musician. The quartet played an important role in the popularisation of classical chamber music and the intermingling of other musical genres, ranging from pop to jazz to local sing a longs. The foursome, which is self-willed and creative as ever, has performed all over the world and recorded many CDs, at times with other well-known musicians, including violinist Jaap van Zweden, pianist Daniël Wayenberg and king of the accordion Johnny Meijer.

Even though Van Twillert performed as soloist with the Soloist Quintet Salzburg in 1993, his solo career didn't start in earnest until four years later. While preparing for a tour with violinist Sonja van Beek, he established the Amsterdam Soloist Quintet, a string quintet that covers a broad musical spectrum. The quintet has since accompanied Van Twillert on many international tours, which have included performances with the Salzburg Chamber Soloist Ensemble, the Minsk Symphony Orchestra, Emmy Verhey, the Remix Ensemble conducted by Peter Rundle, Inessa Galante, the Beiras Philharmonic Orchestra, Vinko Globokar and Henry Brant.

The quintet has also recorded numerous CDs, including works by Piazzolla and Heitor Villa-Lobos, as well as saudades with sections by Carlos Paredes and with fado singer Carlos do Carmo (winner of the Goya Award 2008) as guest soloist. Together with violinist Emmy Verhey, he recorded *Great Americans*; on *Classical Tour* with the Baritone Sax he joins pianist Gian Maria Bonino to play works by Schumann and Debussy. In 2006, he also recorded a CD with Latvian soprano Inessa Galante.

For the past 25 years, Van Twillert has closely collaborated with pianist and composer Tjako van Schie, a remarkable musician. In addition to being his regular accompanist, Van Schie has coached Van Twillert's students in the Netherlands and Portugal. Henk van Twillert's unparalleled virtuosity is not only a joy to the ear, it has inspired other musicians to compose works for the baritone saxophone.

Conductor – Francisco Ferreira

Francisco Ferreira is known for his multidisciplinary artistic career. He holds a degree in Saxophone by the Music Conservatories of Porto (Portugal) and Limoges (France) and the Superior School of Music of Lisbon (Portugal), with the highest scores. He has the merit of having developed in Portugal a major saxophone class in the area of classical music, with a vast number of awarded pupils in national and international competitions. He has also dedicated himself to the development of wind orchestras, which led him to work, as a conductor, with Jan Cober, Marc Tadue, Eugene Corporon, Douglas Bostock and José Pascual Vilaplana, and to conclude, in 2007, a Master in Orchestral Conducting by the Royal Dutch Conservatory of Maastricht. He received scholarships from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Camões Institute; he received a prize awarded by the Foundation Eng. António de Almeida;



and he won the contest “Listening and Speaking” promoted by Maestro António Vitorino d’Almeida, on a programme aired on the Portuguese television channel, RTP. He performs regularly in concerts in Europe, Asia and Brazil. He played solo with the Symphonic Orchestra of Porto, the Porto and Madeira Classical Orchestras, the Portuguese Symphonic Band, the Public Security Police Bands of Lisbon and of Curitiba (Brazil), and the Municipal Band of the City of La Coruña (Spain), and also with the Portuguese Orchestra of Saxophones. He is often invited to join juries of national and international competitions of saxophone and bands. As a conductor, he directed numerous formations of wind and percussion from the Algarve, Covilhã, and also the Symphonic Band of the National Republican Guard (Lisbon); the Music Conservatory of Porto; the Inatel Wind Orchestras; the Philharmonia of Vermoim (Maia); the European Union Orchestra; the Portuguese Symphonic Band; the Rundfunk-Blasorchester Leipzig (Germany); the Symphonic Band of Tatui (São Paulo, Brazil); the Gran Canaria Wind Orchestra; the Municipal Band of Vitoria - Gasteiz and Pontevedra (Spain), among others. As the chief conductor and artistic director of the Portuguese Symphonic Band, positions he has held since its founding (in 2004), he won the first prize at the II International Contest of Bands of La Senia (Spain) and the World Music Contest in Kerkrade (Netherlands), in the top category with the highest score of all editions. He collaborates in similar roles in the Fafense Music Society. He is a permanent teacher at the Music Conservatory of Porto, but, currently, he works exclusively as the Headmaster of Academia de Música de Costa Cabral, Porto. Alongside his artistic career, he holds a degree in law by the Portuguese Catholic University.