

Trio Fado • Portuguese Fado (Portugal, Berlin)

If you are looking for the musical expression of the Portuguese within ethnic music, you'll find the Fado: an urban and emotional music, rich in melancholy and longing. Trio Fado plays this music with big devotion, leading the audience to old Lisbon, which becomes experienceable through their songs.



The musicians of Trio Fado connect Berlin in which they live, with Portugal, their common native country. With her yearning voice **Maria Carvalho** literally dives into the profound songs of the Fado. **António de Brito** cantillates the male version of the Fado with strong and smoky temperament. **Daniel Pircher**, an Austrian who went to school in Portugal, generates the absolutely essential sound of the Fado on his twelve string Guitarra Portuguesa, gently flattering around the voice. With

his cello arrangements the "fourth trio member" **Benjamin Walbrodt** gives to the Fado evening a classical quality.

The Trio Fado interprets famous Fados of different epochs with their own arrangements. In their compositions and texts the group preserves the old form of the Fados and intensifies them by the influence of the musical experiences of the musicians. The variety of the instrumentation and the lyrical appeal of the lyrics enrich the earthy, original form of the Fados.

Press comments

„**Maria Carvalho fascinates** with her Style to sing the Fado. She takes away the sadness and radiates a peculiar ease with her tender and at the next moment strong voice ... always full feeling for what she sings.“ *Rheinische Post, Silvia Ruf-Stanley, Kempten, 2006*

„**Vivid, erotic and entirely inartificial ... Top Class of their guild ...** Audience was fascinated“ *Norbert Göbbel, Westdeutsche Zeitung, 2006*

„Trio Fado aroused enthusiasm ... **five encores and never ending applause speak for itself**“ *Westfälische Nachrichten, 2006*

„... **a great concert** ... the musical poetry of the group **overwhelmed the audience** ... beside of standing ovation also shouting and cheering ... Trio Fado was **more than persuasive.**“ *Thomas Schmitz, Ahlener Zeitung, 2006*

„... **Passion of Release** ... the visitors experienced an inspiring Fado evening ... from the very first measure everybody was completely captivated by Maria Carvalhos dark and warm voice full of longing – furthermore she had **extraordinary intensive backing** by Trio Fado ...“ *Westfälischer Anzeiger, 2006*

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History

At first, Trio Fado was playing in Portuguese restaurants, but soon one could see them on Berlin's stages, such as House of the Cultures of the World, Werkstatt der Kulturen, Passionskirche and the Academy of Arts.

Radio Multikulti became aware of Trio Fado and their important contribution in spreading the Portuguese music in Germany. For several times, in live programs, the group and their music had been introduced to the listeners.

In 2002, António de Brito and Maria Carvalho won the 2nd and 3rd prizes in a **Fado competition** in Germany.

In the same year **RTP-Internacional** (portuguese Television for Europe) recorded a concert of Trio Fado, which had been broadcasted in the European countries.

In 2005 the first **CD of Trio Fado - "Com que voz"** was released.

The first performance abroad was in Armenia where Trio Fado gave five concerts and live appearances on Yerevan's television and Radio.

In February 2006 Trio Fado was on **Tour in 22 cities** in Germany.

In 2006, in April Trio Fado was committed to play during an exposition in the **National Gallery in Berlin**. Later in June, Trio Fado went to Italy for a five days festival of World Music and played alongside international artists.

In October 2006 they were one of the finalists, chosen from 109 groups, at the World Music award "**Creole**" in Berlin.

musicians biographies

Maria Carvalho | vocals

Maria Carvalho grew up in a village close to Porto. At that time traditional, as well as pop music was an integral part of everyday life in Portugal. Singing was a natural form of the expression of the people. To escape the pinched circumstances Maria moved to London and Paris for Au-Pair jobs and finally came to Berlin where she lives till now. Here she also gave birth to her son Lucas. With the time the longing to Portugal became stronger and stronger.

By the meeting with António de Brito, who sang Portuguese songs long since in restaurants and in parties, Maria Carvalho also found a possibility to maintain the connection with her native country. If she closes her eyes while singing, she allows the **pictures of recollection** to rise to the surface and let the audience take part in it with her songs.

António de Brito | vocals and guitar

António de Brito sings the male version of the Fado with strong and smoky temperament **since the early 90^s** in the Portuguese restaurants of Berlin.

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Daniel Pircher | portuguese guitar

Daniel Pircher was born in Berlin, moved to Portugal at age of ten and at the age of eleven he learned to play the guitar. Three years later he founded his first rock band with self composed songs. In addition he played in the bass for the audio productions of his father **Armin Pircher** (Amor Perfeito), who devoted himself to Portuguese music. This influence led to the fact that Daniel, in spite of various rock and pop formations, formed the Portuguese group „**Filhos da madrugada**“ in 1996 in which he played the classical guitar.

From summer 1998 he started dealing intensely with the Mongolian music and learned the traditional overtone singing. At the same time he had a small label, produced electronic music and published various Techno sampler. In 2000 he started to play the Portuguese guitar and founded the group **Fado Incorporated** and later it's successor, the **Trio Fado**. In the same year he also founded, as a singer and guitarist together with the cellist Benjamin Walbrodt, the group **Extravagante** and presents a program with multi-faceted own compositions and interpretations of pieces of José Afonso and other Portuguese composers.

In 2003 the group **Terrakottonium** followed, in which he uses his overtone singing and Crete stoneware sound jugs, which hang in a 4m² big and 3 m high metal scaffolding.

Benjamin Walbrodt | cello

At age of five Benjamin Walbrodt already demand for a cello and as a result got violoncello lessons. He studied violoncello in the college for music "Carl Maria von Weber" in Dresden and in the conservatoire "Nikolai Rimskii-Korsakov" in St. Petersburg and concluded with an orchestra certificate. He worked in the classical symphony orchestra of the Schleswig-Holstein theater.

However, classical music only did not make him happy! The cellist appeared beside his classical engagements in **all possible formations and styles**: Solo, in the Russian folklore duet with Juri Sosnovski, with a jazz-funk and a Metal band, a kind of Country blues band, in the "Dreigroschen" opera with Shelly Kupferberg, with the Melodiaorchester Dresden (a 30s hit orchestra), Free jazz, a gospel formation, a tango and a Tori Amos-cover band, in dance theater-productions, film (e.g. „Schnapphahn und Kallaputschni“ from Thilo Schimenz) and television productions of the Croatian broadcasting company at the upbeat island festival on Hvar, or with various new serious music ensembles or chamber orchestras.

He had concert tours to Israel, Switzerland, Italy and with more than 1000 cellists with the **Cellissimo Grandissimo** for an earthquake charity concert in Kobe – Japan, in which also of Twelve cellists of the Berlin philharmonic orchestra took part. The resulted enriched his style and his ideas. His music productions for children: "Barbar, the small Elephant", "carnival of the animals", "the small guitar" appeared in „Kein Tag ohne Musik“ publishing, Hamburg.

The desire for the music experience par excellence, let him meet Daniel Pircher. The influence was canalized to the foundation of the **Extravagante** duet. The result: Pure Sound joy and a special liability to the expression of an extravagant attitude to life. A taste of it offers the CD with the miraculous story of Jorge Amado "**Der Gestreifte Kater und die Schwalbe Sinha**" (PATMOS) to which Extravagante played the music together with Maria Carvalho. On another CD "In dieser einen stillen Nacht", he accompanies stories and poems read by Petra Kelling, Dieter Mann, Otto Mellies, Ulrich Mühe and Otto Sander.

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Discography

- Trio Fado CD “**Com que voz**“. The CD is a good mixture of affectionate and spirited sounds and presents quite own interpretations of famous Fado composers and some own compositions.

performances (choice)

- 1999 – 2001** performance in Portuguese restaurants in Berlin
- 2001** **Hochschule der Kunst** (HDK – Berlin)
Jazzkeller Dresden
Werkstatt der Kulturen – Berlin
- 2002** Fado award in Germany (2nd price)
Kulturwerkstatt - Paderborn
Haus der Kulturen der Welt – Radio Multikulti (Rbb)
Werkstatt der Kulturen – Berlin (March, November)
Passionskirche - Berlin
- 2003** Lange Nacht der Museen – Heimatmuseum Neuköln
Schaubühne - Berlin
Werkstatt der Kulturen - Berlin (April and November)
- 2004** Lange Nacht der Museen – Ibero-amerikanisches Institut Berlin
Werkstatt der Kulturen – Berlin (March)
Künstler Haus Dannenberg / Wendland
TV appearance – RTP Internacional
Musica Vitale – 6th world wide music award
- 2005** Teehaus im Englischen Garten
Künstler Haus - Wendland
Völker Ball – the Radio multikulti-Party
Armenia – 5 concerts + TV- and Radio gigs
- 2006** **22 concerts in Nordrhein-Westfalen** (February)
Al Globe - Potsdam
Teehaus / Englischer Garten - Berlin
Alten Bahnhofshalle - Berlin
Centro Português - Braunschweig
Werkstatt der Kulturen - Berlin
Masala Festival - Hannover
Burg Waldeck Festival
Kulturamt - Geilenkirchen
Kunstmuseum - Wolfsburg
Kino Bali - Berlin
Villa Sommerach - Sommerach/Franken
Centro Português - Paderborn
Bürgerhaus Weserterrassen - Bremen
Neue Nationalgalerie Berlin - Exhibition “Melancholia”
Festival “la Ghironda” in south Italy
- one of the finalists at the World Music award “Creole” in Berlin.**

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- 2007**
- Berlin - Teehaus im Englischer garten
 - Hamburg - Museum für Völkerkunde
 - Berlin - Labsaal
 - Schweiz - Restaurante Gemsli
 - Schweiz - Kulturcinema Arbon
 - Bruchsal - Kaufmanns Schlachthof
 - Hamburg - **Vasco da Gama Platz -Eröffnung**
 - Sachsen - Kulturinsel Einsiedel Zentendorf - **14th Folklorum Festival**
 - Berlin / Skulpturengarten
 - Villa Sommerach
 - Krems-Stein (Niederösterreich) - Haus der Regionen/ Kultur Europa
 - Wien/ (Österreich) - **Sargfabrik**
 - Berlin / Ufa- Fabrik
 - Wuppertal – ADA-Café
 - Neunötting - Stadtssaal Neuötting, "Gitarren Tage"
 - Berlin - **Passionskirche** am Marheinekeplatz
- 2008**
- Berlin UFA - fabrik
 - Hamburg - Ernst Barlach Haus/ Jenisch Park
 - Berlin / **Philharmonie**/ Kammermusiksaal