

STEREO

MFS 374

APRIL IN PORTUGAL

MONITOR PRESENTS THE LEADING FADO SINGERS OF PORTUGAL

MARIA JOSÉ DA GUIA

VALENTINA FELIX

JOSE BORGES

ISABEL SILVA

ALFREDO DUARTE, JR.

ALICE MARIA CONCEIÇÃO

A SEVERA

monitor
music of the world



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MARIA JOSE DA GUIA — An established star, Maria José has been singing professionally for sixteen years. Both her recordings and personal appearances are extremely popular in Portugal. Maria José was born in Angola, Portuguese West Africa, but came to Lisbon when she was quite young. Aside from singing regularly in a "casa de fado", Maria José also appears frequently on television, radio and the stage. She has the traditional fado style.

VALENTINA FELIX — At 23, Valentina Felix is one of Lisbon's youngest professional fadistas. This is her first recording. Despite her youth, however, Valentina is already well-known and widely admired in Portugal both for her sincere delivery and her engaging personality. Born in the southernmost province of Algarve, Valentina began her singing career at the age of 17 as a vocalist with a jazz group. From vocalizing popular songs she turned to the fado two years ago.

JOSÉ BORGES — A native of Lisbon, José Borges began singing as a hobby, then took part in a contest which he won. That event launched him as both a singer and author-composer. Before turning professional José was a tailor. Today he is one of the best-known male fadistas in Lisbon. Possessor of an excellent tenor voice, José is best known for his renditions of the Coimbra style fado of which *Rosas Brancas* (Side 1, band 5) is an excellent example. The listener will find one of José's own compositions on this recording (Side 2, band 4) *Ola Vem do Mar*.

ISABEL SILVA — Beginning her career at the age of 16, Isabel Silva is regarded today as one of Portugal's leading exponents of folklore music. She has a big voice and a spirited delivery which makes her popular with audiences. Aside from singing in fado restaurants, Isabel has appeared in a number of stage productions and has made numerous recordings.

ALFREDO DUARTÉ, JR. Short in stature, but large in voice and interpretive power, Alfredo Duarte, Jr., is one of the most popular personalities in Lisbon. Alfredo is the son of Alfredo "Marceneiro" (the "cabinet maker") who is considered the father of the modern fado and he carries on the family tradition of wearing a neck scarf and cap. Now 35 years of age, Alfredo has been singing the fado for 22 years, beginning at the age of 13 and turning professional at the age of 19. Proficient in all forms of the fado, Alfredo is best known for his unique Fadista Bailarino (dancer) style.

ALICE MARIA CONCEIÇÃO — Born in the northern province of Minho, Alice Maria began her career as a teenager singing on radio programs in the city of Oporto. After turning professional at the age of 20, she went to Lisbon where she sang in a number of "typical restaurants". In 1957 Alice Maria spent a year singing in Brazil. She is in great demand as a headline performer in Lisbon.

INTRODUCTION

This unique phonograph record provides the American phonographic debut for six of Portugal's most outstanding singers. It also provides the American listener with an opportunity to hear the rich variety in Portuguese popular music. Included are fados of the Coimbra style, fados of the Lisbon style, a march, a singing joust (or desgarrada), folklore songs, and the popular fado canção or song fado. This recording was produced in one continuous session at a typical fado restaurant, *A Severa*, in the old Bairro Alto district of Lisbon and it was made from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. after each of the singers had completed a full evening's work. For this reason it has somewhat the same quality that might be attained by a spontaneous jam session of American jazz musicians.

Though uniquely Portuguese, the fado springs from a number of sources, including the troubadours of the 12th century who came to Portugal from Provence via Aragon. Other influences are Moorish, African and Brazilian the latter two brought to Lisbon by the intrepid Portuguese sailors who have roamed the seas since the Age of Discoveries in the 15th and 16th centuries. There are two distinct classes of fado. One is the fado of Coimbra where the students of the ancient university carry on the tradition of romantic poetry handed down for centuries since the school was established in the year 1290. The other class of fado is the fado of Lisbon which in its truest form is more earthy and melancholy, often speaking of unrequited love, jealousy and passion. Within the fado style of Lisbon, however, there are sub-categories of styles which include humorous fados, fast fados, intricately rhymed fados and fados named for the style of certain prominent singers and composers as well as for old districts of the city.

The people of Lisbon themselves sing the fado at home and in neighborhood wine shops called "tavernas". The fado pattern, however, is established by the professional singers who perform in what are called "typical restaurants", of which there are twelve in Lisbon. These singers called fadistas (male or female) carry on the tradition and add their own styles and interpretations. The "typical restaurants" are located in two of the oldest districts of the city of Lisbon — Alfama and Bairro Alto — and here, every night of the week, Portuguese and foreigners go for dinner and an evening of fado music.

Side One

- 1. FADO COIMBRA** — *Song of Coimbra* (The music of this song was used a few years ago to make a great popular hit called "April in Portugal". The original Portuguese fado, however, is a song about the ancient university city of Coimbra in central Portugal.) "Coimbra of the poplars, are you still the capital of love in Portugal?" Vocal: **Maria José da Guia**.
- 2. BARRETE VERDE** — *Green Cap* "Green cap and jacket and black belt, all fringed . . ." Vocal: **José Borges**.
- 3. UMA CASA PORTUGUESA** — *A Portuguese House*. "A Portuguese house suits you well with bread and wine on the table . . . four whitewashed walls, the smell of rosemary, the promise of a kiss." Vocal: **Maria José da Guia**.
- 4. CANTARES DO MINHO** — *Songs of Minho*. "I have a love in Viana, another in Ponte de Lima, and another in Barcelos. Trala la la." (Minho is a province in the north of Portugal. Viana, Ponte de Lima and Barcelos are towns in Minho.) Vocal: **Isabel Silva**.
- 5. ROSAS BRANCAS** — *White Roses*. "When I die there will be nobody to cut white roses for me . . ." Vocal: **José Borges**.
- 6. MARCHA DE A SEVERA** — *March of A Severa*. "Already all the people know that in our beautiful Lisbon the most famous restaurant for food and fado is Severa, Severa, Severa . . ." Vocal: **Maria José da Guia**.

Side Two

- 1. BARCOS DO TEJO** — *Boats of the Tagus River*. "From high in the castle, St. George keeps a watchful eye on the Tagus where the sails go to the sea . . ." Vocal: **Valentina Felix**.
- 2. FADO NOSSE** — *Our Song*. "Don't stop singing the fado with courage because our fado is very Portuguese . . ." Vocal: **Alfredo Duarte, Jr.**
- 3. MADRAGOA** — *Madragoa*. (an old fishermen's district of Lisbon near the river). "The sea longs for its monument in Lisbon, gloomy and picturesque Madragoa . . ." Vocal: **Alice Maria Conceição**.
- 4. OLA VEM DO MAR** — *Ola Come to the Sea*. "My love is a sailor who works at sea to earn money to marry me . . ." Vocal: **Isabel Silva**.
- 5. VARINAS, NOIVAS DO MAR** — *Fishwives, Brides of the Sea*. "These fishwives, talkative, pretty and candid are brides of the Portuguese sea . . ." Vocal: **Alfredo Duarte, Jr.**

6. DESGARRADA — *Singing Contest*. The verses of this song are sung alternately by the different fadistas and speak of typical fado scenes such as bullfights, guitars, black shawls and the districts of the city of Lisbon. The desgarrada dates from the 12th century and was known in those days as a "contense". It is usually a spontaneous, poetical joust in which the singers try to outdo each other in wit and rhyming, making up verses extemporaneously. The music for this desgarrada is that used for the typical Fado Mouraria. Vocals in order of appearance: **Maria José da Guia, Alfredo Duarte, Jr., Alice Maria Conceição, José Borges, Valentina Felix, Isabel Silva, Maria José da Guia, Chorus**.

ABOUT THIS RECORD

This recording was made at the typical fado restaurant, *A Severa*, 55 Rua das Gavas, Bairro Alto, Lisbon. The *A Severa* takes its name from Maria Severa, a great fado singer of the last century. The daughter of a Portuguese mother and a Gypsy father, Maria Severa overwhelmed Lisbon with her singing and beauty. She won the love of the Count of Vimioso, but owing to their differences in station their love ended in tragedy. The story of Maria Severa is a recurring scene in fado poetry.

The restaurant *A Severa* is perhaps the most popular typical restaurant in Lisbon and is noted equally for the quality of its food, its top-flight roster of singers and its unique ambiance. Monitor wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to Mr. Julião Barros, the proprietor of *A Severa*, and to all of his staff for their enthusiastic assistance. Monitor also acknowledges with thanks the technical aid rendered by the Portuguese radio station Emissora Nacional. Finally, Monitor would like to express its appreciation to Mr. Emilio Mateus of Lisbon, the noted "fadophile," and to Mr. John M. Reed of New York, without whose assistance this recording would not have been possible. Mr. Reed also provided the program notes.

For complete catalog "Music of the World," write:

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Cover Photo of Maria Jose da Guia by William Stelling, courtesy George Peabody and Associates, Inc.

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MONITOR PRESENTS APRIL IN PORTUGAL: AN EVENING AT THE SEVERA

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