FADISTAS’ CHOICE
Portugal’s Best Loved Songs
with the Shegundo Galarzo Orchestra & featuring the Portuguese Guitar of Jorge Fontes

Side One

1. CASA PORTUGUESA 3:00
Portuguese House
Vocal: Maria de Fu
“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.”

2. CANCAO DO MAR 2:40
Song of the Sea
Vocal: Manuel Fernandes
A girl and her date went dancing in a boat far out at sea; the sea blamed the girl for stealing the beautiful light of her loved one’s eyes. After that the girl won’t tell the sea where she goes dancing either in reality or in her dreams.

3. LAVADEIRAS DE PORTUGAL 2:54
Washerwomen of Portugal
Vocal: Carlos Meneses
(Note: This song has no text.)

4. LISBOA NAO SEJAS FRANCES 2:35
Lisbon, Don’t Be French
Vocal: Ada de Castro
In the 19th Century, Napoleon’s army invaded Portugal and Lisbon was occupied by French soldiers. The undaunted Portuguese national pride found expression in many forms, including a humorous turn in this enchanting fado. Lisbon is depicted as a fickle young maiden, flirting with the French soldiers. Over and over again, the city is reminded that she belongs only to the Portuguese.

5. TUDO ISTO E FADO 1:55
This is Fado
Vocal: Tony de Matos
Ask me what a fado is and I’ll tell you: destroyed souls, lost nights, complaining guitars, sorrow, love and jealousy—all this is fado. And if you talk to me of love, talk to me of fado, too.

6. APRIL IN PORTUGAL 3:35
(“Coimbra”)
Vocal: Mirene Cardinali
The original of this great popular hit was simply called “Coimbra” after the ancient university city of Portugal. “Coimbra of the poplars, are you still the capital of love in the Portuguese slums and water-front to permeate the entire country and affect all strata of society.”

Although new Fados are constantly being written by the busy composers in Lisbon, sooner or later during an evening at one of the “taverns” some of these songs will be performed. They are truly the “fadistas’ choice” and many are now known beyond the borders of Portugal. Performing these songs is a roster of outstanding “fadistas” each of whom deserves an LP of their own—and in many instances have at least one.

In this recording Monitor presents what might be called the all time favorite songs of Portugal—predominantly Fados.

The well-known fadophile, John M. Reed, has written about the Fado as follows: “The word Fado derives from the Latin fatum, meaning fate, but the original use was in the word Fatista, meaning a fatalistic person. The songs sung by these fatalists came to be called Fados.

Fado evolved in Lisbon during the 19th century, gradually becoming formalized out of a blend of earlier musical forms. As it came to reflect more accurately the unique Portuguese feeling of nostalgia for past glories—a feeling known as “saúde” in Portuguese—Fado spread out of the Lisbon slums and water-front to permeate the entire country and affect all strata of society.

Portuguese Music on Monitor Records

Cover Photo of Lisbon by EDWARD BUAXBAUM

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