

***You already know my goal: to liberate Portugal* - Musical practices and political activities of Portuguese protest singers in exile**

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A significant part of the protest music sung by Portuguese songwriters against the dictatorial Estado Novo regime was written in exile. From the beginning of the 1960s until the April 25, 1974 coup d'état, thousands of Portuguese men and women went into exile in France, a prime fleeing location for those who fought the regime's repression and for young people who refused to participate in the colonial war, which began in 1961. This was the case of singer-songwriters such as Luís Cília, José Mário Branco, Sérgio Godinho and Tino Flores, who developed their musical activity in close relationship with the associative milieu of Portuguese emigrant communities, as well as within the activity of distinct political groups opposing the regime, mainly the Portuguese Communist Party and radical left-wing organisations created in the wake of the Sino-Soviet conflict. Freed from the regime's persecution and inspired by the French artistic realm and its effervescent political atmosphere, these singers played a central role in raising political and social awareness, by creating a vast engaged repertoire, which was sometimes published through self-produced records, resorting to the support of political organisations for their distribution. These repertoires also reflected distinct views regarding the uses of Portuguese traditional culture against the regime, and different political alignments.

This paper aims to overview the different aspects and issues within the musical practices of Portuguese protest singers in exile, their political activity, and their contact with the multiple cultural and political domains existing in France. Particular attention will be given to changes in the repertoires, as well as to the thematic and literary content of the songs, through which these singers denounced the Portuguese dictatorship and the life conditions of Portuguese emigrated workers, condemned the colonial war and, in some cases, called for military desertion and armed struggle against the regime.

Bio:

Hugo Castro is a researcher of the Instituto de Etnomusicologia - Centro de Estudos em Música e Dança at the NOVA University of Lisbon. He completed his undergraduate studies in Anthropology (2006, University of Coimbra), his master's degree in Ethnomusicology (2012, NOVA) and a PhD dissertation about the relationship between song practices and political activities during the Carnation Revolution (1974-1976) in Portugal (2022, NOVA). He has been doing research on several subjects related to protest song and the phonographic industry in Portugal. He is a member of the directive board of the Associação José Afonso, member of the executive committee of the Observatório da Canção de Protesto and a curator of the Centro de Estudos e Documentação José Mário Branco - Música e Liberdade. He is currently a member of the research team of the project "*We must warn everyone: Music and Portuguese exile in France during the Estado Novo regime (1933-1974)*".

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