

# Europe Day

## A take on Ode to Joy – Beethoven's 9th

Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony is an epic, over the top, eccentric artistic idea that stretched barriers beyond imagination. Thinking of it as a metaphor for the concept of a united and peaceful Europe, this project brings together individuals and organisations irrespective of age, nationality and musical background in the creation of a public performance inspired by Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" held at Pjazza Teatru Rjal on May 14, 2017. It is an interactive musical event, built on cooperation and collaborative work, spread over several preparatory sessions with all participants.

Participation may be either as a member of the orchestra or by providing artistic "material" (music, words, sonic effects, track field recordings, dances etc ...) based on a provided two-chord progression.

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# Europe Day – a take on Beethoven’s 9th

The project’s principal goals are:

- to build bridges through music;
- to promote contemporary art creation through research, experiment and innovation;
- to promote, value and preserve the musical background of the participants;
- to encourage the dilution of social, artistic or cultural barriers;
- to nurture audiences of all ages and backgrounds; and
- to promote the identity and sense of belonging through a new perspective on immaterial heritage.

## Action Plan

This project’s methodology is based on research about the territory, its people, its culture, its music and its musical communities. It depends on the contacts with the participants, the way they are handled and some “internal marketing” in order to achieve an eclectic and really demonstrative sample of the musical communities and individuals in Malta. A core band of local musicians will act as team leaders and the project will develop through a series of workshops. These workshops – led by Tim Steiner, Ricardo Baptista and the team leaders – are intend to develop the musical ideas and material, rehearse and improve the performance and increase the levels of engagement and enthusiasm of all participants within this project. Workshops will take place at Pjazza Teatru Rjal as follows:

- **22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> January**
- **18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup> February**
- **19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>st</sup> April**
- **9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May**

## Performance

The final performance, taking place in the late afternoon of Sunday May 14, 2017 at Pjazza Teatru Rjal, shall consist of a concert involving a big and heterogeneous orchestra and choir, performing an eclectic and fun approach to the last movement of Beethoven’s 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony. It shall be conducted by Tim Steiner and will represent a celebration of these different cultures, styles and ages, building throughout these processes a new artistic community. The concert shall create strong and clear links between all the participants and between them, the maestro and the audience, in a uniquely interactive performance.

## The Team

This project is led by a small team of experienced and professional artistes who will work hand in hand with a local coordinator and around 8 local musicians who will act as team leaders.

### TIM STEINER

*Performer, Conductor, Composer, Workshop Leader*

Tim Steiner is a conductor and composer specialized in collaborative creation and performance. He graduated from the University of Sussex in 1987 and from City University in 1992. Steiner has directed hundreds of creative projects all over Europe in every musical and social context. Recent work includes composing and conducting *Hunter Gather*, a piece for two amateur orchestras and the BBC Concert Orchestra, part of Music Nation project. Tim is StopEstra’s maestro, artistic director of “Connected to Music” and was the creative director of the BBC events “Over the Rainbow”, “I’d Do Anything” and “Play It Again”. Other projects include *SCORE!*, *Hear and Now*, music for the Special Olympics 2009 music and *Operação BigBang* for Guimarães 2012, European Capital of Culture. Steiner currently works in collaboration with the Casa da Música, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC singers, London Chamber Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Bergen Philharmonic, Viva Det Norske blåseensemble and Stavanger Symphony Orchestra and the Quartet Electronische.

## RICARDO BAPTISTA

*Project Coordinator, Mediation, Workshop Leader, Assistant Conductor*

Ricardo Baptista is a musician and a music teacher, co-founder of *ondamarela* with a degree in music teaching music from ESE Porto. He has been leader/facilitator in several Casa da Música educational projects: *Ritmos da Cidade*, *Orquestra do Dia - Dia Mundial da Música*, *Sonópolis* and *Orquestra de Famílias Reais*. He had founded and led the musical exploration workshop at the École de Musique de la Ville d'Echternach Luxembourg, the project *GuimarãesPlay* of Guimarães2012 - European Capital of Culture, *Operação BigBang* and *Operação Oliveira* in Guimarães, Community Concert in Braga, the *Real Orquestra da Grande Malha Ortogonal de Espinho* and *Orquestra Fervença* in Bragança. Baptista was one of the artists in residence in West Way Lab 2014 - Guimarães, working with Unnstein Stefánsson and Sveinbjorn Thorarensen and composing and performing the music for the project *Smoke Signals* by Glen Calleja. In 2015 he was the winner of the Literary Prize *Maria Rosa Colaço*.

## ANA BRAGANÇA

*Project Manager*

Ana Bragança is cultural manager and co-founder of *ondamarela*. She has a degree in Art, specializing in Conservative Museums and Historic Buildings as well as a Post Graduate degree in Management of Cultural Heritage from the School of Arts of the Portuguese Catholic University. She was the project manager at *Company A Oficina* Arts Centre of Guimarães, CIPRL, marketing & incoming manager and advisor to the project Director in Guimarães 2012 European Capital of Culture. She has researched on different topics of cultural heritage in the north of Portugal between 2004 and 2008. Bragança founded and coordinated *West Way Lab 2014* in Guimarães and *Espigulhar* in Porto, was production director for *Contextile* (a contemporary textile art biennial in Guimarães) and since 2015 coordinates *Orquestra Fervença* in Bragança.