



## Portugal joins Golden Jubilee celebrations at Expo with unique line-up of traditional music

**Lisbon, November 29th 2021.** Portugal will mark the UAE's Golden Jubilee celebrations at Expo 2020 Dubai, between December 1st and 2nd, with traditional performances of Cante Alentejano – a unique Portuguese musical expression, listed as intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO.

Portugal's participation includes three performances by the choral group Vozes do Cante (six male voices from the Alentejo region) on December 1st, at 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm local time, at Expo's Earth Stage, as well as a joint performance with the Portuguese singer and accordionist Celina da Piedade, at the Portugal Pavilion, at 7:15 pm.

On the following day, which marks the 50<sup>th</sup> National Day of the United Arab Emirates, Celina da Piedade and Vozes do Cante take the stage at the Dubai Millennium Amphitheatre at 9:00 pm, in a show featuring the special participation of Arab artist Sherin Tohamy. **Full program attached.**

"It is with great pride that Portugal participates in the Golden Jubilee, which represents a historic moment for the United Arab Emirates. The representation of Cante Alentejano at Expo is a unique opportunity to show the world Portugal's rich cultural heritage, in this case recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity", said the Chairman & CEO of AICEP (Portuguese Trade & Investment Agency) and Portugal's Commissioner-General to Expo 2020 Dubai, Luís Castro Henriques.

Cante Alentejano is a genre of traditional polyphonic singing from the country's southern region of Alentejo, characterized by distinctive melodies and vocal styles. It is performed without instrumentation by choral groups of up to thirty singers, and its lyrics explore both traditional themes such as rural life, nature, love, motherhood and changes in the cultural and social context.

For its practitioners and aficionados, Cante embodies a strong sense of identity and belonging, and at the same time reinforces dialogue between different generations, genders and individuals, thereby contributing to social cohesion. This very genuine musical expression, unique in the world, was declared World Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in November 2014.

## **CELINA DA PIEDADE AND VOZES DO CANTE**

Celina da Piedade is a composer, accordionist and singer, and has taken her creativity to the most varied contexts, from traditional music to a more contemporary and universal feeling, going through all of the richness of Cante Alentejano but also the energy of folk and pop music. In her very special concert format “Celina da Piedade e as Vozes do Cante”, she brings on stage six of the best male voices from Alentejo and four outstanding talented musicians, together drawing songs full of soul and personality.

## **SHERIN TOHAMY**

Sherin Tohamy became the first female student to graduate from Bait Al Oud (Cairo Opera House) with first class distinction. In 2002, she took up a teaching position at Bait Al Oud, first in Cairo in 2002, and then in 2009 in Bait Al Oud Abu Dhabi, until now. Sherin has released three albums and performed many concerts all over the world, as a soloist or with international bands. Since 2011, she leads the first female band in the United Arab Emirates - NAJMAAT.

