‘Music Now! Musica Nostra!’

In the framework of the EU-funded European Heritage Hub project, in cooperation with the Municipality of Mafra & under the High Patronage of the President of the French Republic & the President of the Portuguese Republic

Venue: Royal Building of Mafra,
Terreiro D. João V 35, 2640-492 Mafra, Portugal

Date: 7-8 November 2026



Programme

Saturday, 7 November 2026 - Listening to Europe

Please, note all timings are in local time (WET). If you are following online, please adjust to your own time zone.

9:30 – Welcome

Welcome of participants in the **Elliptical Room** at the Royal Building of Mafra, Terreiro D. João V 35, 2640-492 Mafra, Portugal. It is accessible by entering through the palace's South Tower. Then follow the signs, and walk along the cloister on the right, and take the first right turn.

10:00 – Opening speeches

- **Hugo Moreira Luís**, Mayor of Mafra,
- **Hélder Sousa Silva**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**, Secretary General of Europa Nostra, Project Leader of the European Heritage Hub
- **Jorge Chaminé**, President founder of the European Center for Music

10:20 – Why Europe Needs to Learn to Listen Again

Joint introduction: listening, attention, acceleration, resonance, cognition and democracy. This opening sets the stage for the three conversations of the Mafra Table.

11:00 – Conversation 1: Listening to the Past

Heritage, memory, transmission and soundscapes. How can we transmit without freezing? How can we recognise sound as living heritage and give a place to the communities that carry memory? First sound mapping: **Europe in 12 Sounds**.

12:30 – Lunch Break

14:00 – Conversation 2: Listening to a Changing World

Climate, territories, communities, living heritage and resilience. Drawing on the 2026 storms in Portugal: the vulnerability of monuments and collections, the transformation of soundscapes, the transmission of practices, and the role of culture in the resilience of territories.

Central question: how can we protect the memory of a territory when the territory itself is changing?

At 15:30, as part of the same conversation: **12 Sounds of Mafra**. Residents, the ocean, the Tapada, carillons, organs, trades, voices, traditions and silences. The two sound maps constitute the first elements of the future **European Atlas of Living Heritage Sounds**.

16:45 – Break

17:15 – Conversation 3: Listening to the Future

Democracy, youth, education and peace. Dialogue with the younger generation: "**What are adults not hearing?**" What kind of Europe are we building if we no longer know how to listen to those who do not speak like us?

18:30 – End of the Day

Conclusion of the first day of the Mafra Table.

Evening – Filipe de Sousa Festival Concert

Opening concert organised by the Municipality of Mafra at the National Museum of Music, featuring Irene Lima on cello and Adriano Jordão on piano. Free admission. Time to be confirmed.

Sunday 8 November 2026 - From Listening to Action

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9:30 – Synthesis and Launch of the Working Groups

In a plenary session open to the public, synthesis of Saturday's conversations, presentation of the zero drafts and explanation of the amendment process. Organisation into three groups proposed for validation.

What must Europe learn to listen to?
What must we protect?
What can listening change?

10:00 - Three Parallel Working Groups

1. **Manifesto**: amend the Seven Principles of the 2025 European Manifesto "Music Now. Musica Nostra" and prepare key messages to convey at COP31.
2. **European Atlas of Living Heritage Sounds**: refine the methodology, identify the first territories and establish the roadmap.
3. **Network**: amend the founding call, the conditions for participation and the first steps for 2027.

11:00 – Break

11:30 – Plenary Reports from the Three Working Groups

12:30 – Lunch Break

14:00 – Presentation of the European Atlas of Living Heritage Sounds Roadmap

14:30 – Validation of the Mafra Manifesto and the Founding Call of the Network

15:30 – Conclusions and European Perspectives

The Atlas Demonstrator

Guided presentation and testing of the Atlas application demonstrator.

Visits organised in collaboration with the Museus e Monumentos de Portugal and Museu Nacional da Musica to the Palace and the Museu Nacional da Musica will be scheduled separately, subject to the availability of the institutions.

Context and Concept

The second edition of 'Music Now! Musica Nostra!' will bring together some twenty leading European figures and experts from the fields of music, heritage, science, the environment, and civil society, as well as youth representatives, united by a common goal: to make **music and listening the driving forces behind cultural transmission, dialogue, and European cohesion**. Organised by the **Centre Européen de Musique**, these meetings are held in the frame of the **EU-funded European Heritage Hub**, in collaboration with **Europa Nostra**, the **Municipality of Mafra**, and the **National Center for Culture**.

Organised around a roundtable discussion open to the public and livestreamed—the "Mafra Table"—these leaders will explore the connections between **musical and sound heritage, democracy, education, peace, and resilience in the face of climate change**. They will build upon the Music Now! Musica Nostra! Manifesto of April 2025 (under the High Patronage of the Presidency of the Republic of Portugal and the Presidency of the French Republic) and the Mafra Declaration of July 2026.

By combining reflection, listening experiences, and concerts, these Days will highlight Portugal's contribution to the preservation and transmission of Europe's living heritage.

Three outcomes are expected: a Mafra Manifesto titled "For a Europe That Listens," structured around seven principles; a roadmap for a European Atlas of Living Heritage Sounds; and a founding call for a European network of "territories of listening," with Mafra serving as the first such territory.

A special event will also be organised at the end of the programme to launch an appeal from stakeholders in tangible and intangible heritage regarding the consequences of climate change, ahead of the upcoming COP, which begins on November 9 in Antalya. This initiative aims to place communities and younger generations at the heart of cultural transmission, while affirming the role of culture in building a sustainable and peaceful future.

Mafra Table Participants (in no particular order)

1. Paulo Borges, philosopher
2. Paulo Mendes Pinto, PhD in Cultural Studies from the University of Aveiro
3. Isabel Pessôa Lopes, Space Risks consultant
4. João Cruz Alves, architect, heritage expert and former director of Quinta da Regaleira (Sintra)
5. Carlos Pimenta, theatre director, teacher and researcher. PhD in Communication Sciences – ECATI, Universidade Lusófona
6. János Malina, musicologist, President of the Hungarian Haydn Society and President of the Society of Historic Theatres of Europe (Hungary)
7. Edward Ayres de Abreu, Director of the National Museum of Music
8. Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco, Professor Emerita of Ethnomusicology
9. Helena Freitas, UNESCO Chairholder in Biodiversity Safeguard for Sustainable Development
10. Lee Higgins, Director of the International Centre for Community Music at York St John University, UK
11. Pedro Liberto Ferreira, Director of the José Saramago School Group
12. Maria Jorge Rodrigues, Coordinator of the PNA-PCE / Lina Peralta, Chair of the Advisory Committee
13. Mayor of Mafra or Deputy Mayor
14. Alexandra Fortes, Municipal Councillor for Culture and music teacher at Mafra Music School
15. Jérémie Simon, Director of Baludik
16. Hélder Sousa Silva, Member of the European Parliament
17. Teresa Tamen, Director of the Portuguese National Centre for Culture
18. Vicente Rodriguez, President of the Amália Rodrigues Foundation
19. José Mesquita, Commander and former Portuguese representative in Brussels for fisheries areas
20. Susana Graça, Vice-President for Culture at CCDR LVT
21. Pablo Eulate Glez, Programme Manager at Acción Cultural Española
22. António José Ferreira, Director of Meloteca
23. Benjamin Dupré, composer
24. Susanna Bucher, ICONS Foundation
25. Jurn Buisman, Geelwinck Museum director and Vice President of ICOMOS
26. Cristina Garzillo, Head of Built Environment, Culture and Heritage at ICLEI Europe
27. Mickaël Viegas, musician

28. Philip Rylatt, coordinator of Lost Souls of War project
29. Iskrena Yordanova, musician and musicologist, Divino Sospiro baroque ensemble
30. Anna Stavychenko, musicologist, curator and artistic director
31. Silvia Sequeira, director of musicology department of National Library of Lisbon