

# casa da música



“ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERT HALLS BUILT IN THE LAST 100 YEARS”.

The New York Times

## ORIGIN

The origins of Casa da Música trace back to 1998 when Porto and Rotterdam were chosen as European Capitals of Culture for 2001. The architectural project by Rem Koolhaas, resulting from the solution presented by the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, began. Officially inaugurated in April 2005, Casa da Música stands as an ambitious artistic, cultural, educational, and social project, housed in the first building in Portugal exclusively dedicated to music. Continues its mission to celebrate artists, composers, musicians, and various genres of music, from classical to jazz, fado to electronic, from large international productions to more experimental projects. Today, Casa da Música is an unmistakable icon with great international projection, serving as a stage for numerous musical genres and audiences, as diverse as its environments and endless perspectives that define it.



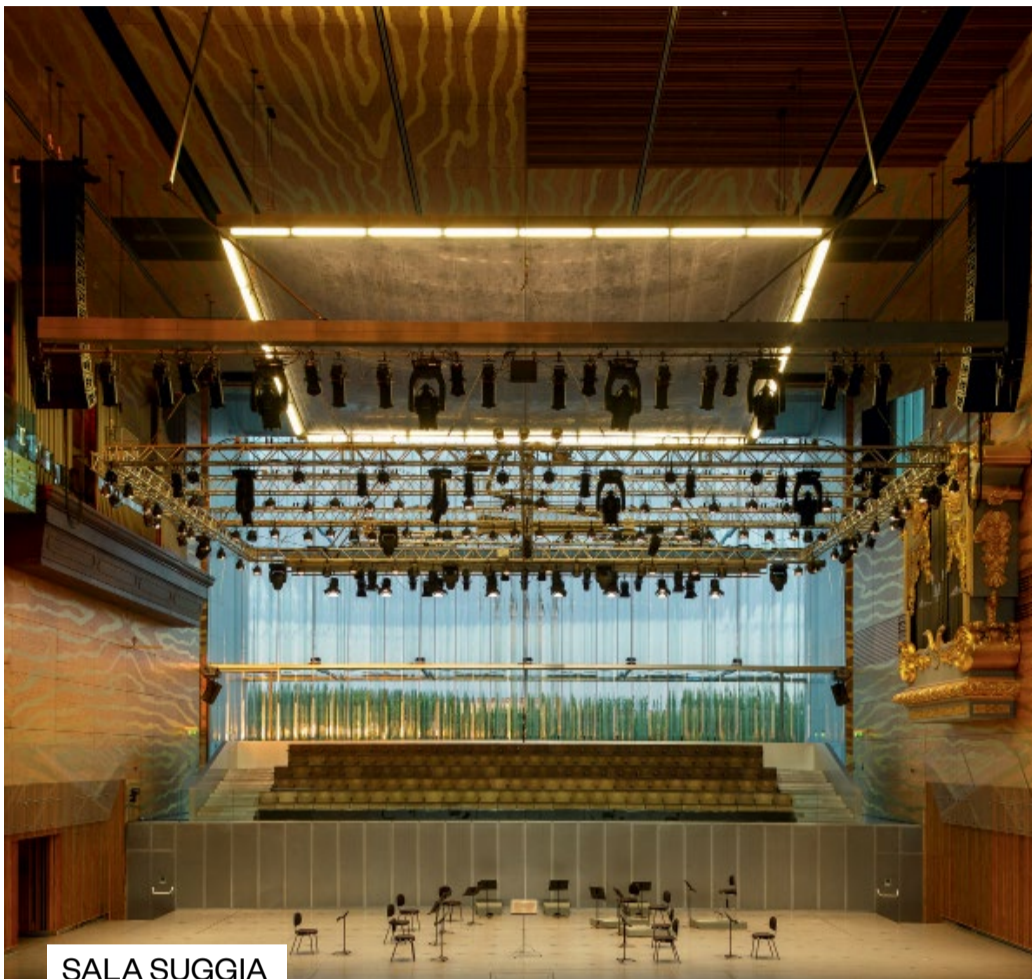
## ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT

Rem Koolhaas created a landmark work that placed Porto on the front page of The New York Times. In 2010, The Times selected five representative works of the first decade of this century: the Neues Museum in Berlin, the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, the Eden Project in Cornwall, the Gherkin in London, and Casa da Música in Porto. These buildings were considered the most representative works of world architecture in the first decade of the 21st century. Casa da Música originated from a project for a 200 m<sup>2</sup> villa, which was transformed into a cultural building of about 38,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Demolition and initial excavations began in late 1999. Construction started in 2001 and ended in 2005. After four tireless years of work, Casa da Música opened its doors on April 15, 2005.

## ARTISTIC PROJECT

Beyond being a traditional concert hall, Casa da Música is a unified entity encompassing various artistic and educational projects with its own identity. The most visible components of this entity are the resident ensembles, which form the majority of the artistic programming shaping the institution's profile, and the Education Service, which hosts about a thousand events per year. The unity of this entity is achieved through the creation of comprehensive programming concepts: the theme of the season and festivals held at various times throughout the year. There are five resident ensembles at Casa da Música that are present throughout the year in its programming: Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música, Remix Ensemble Casa da Música, Orquestra Barroca Casa da Música, Coro Casa da Música, and Coro Infantil Casa da Música.

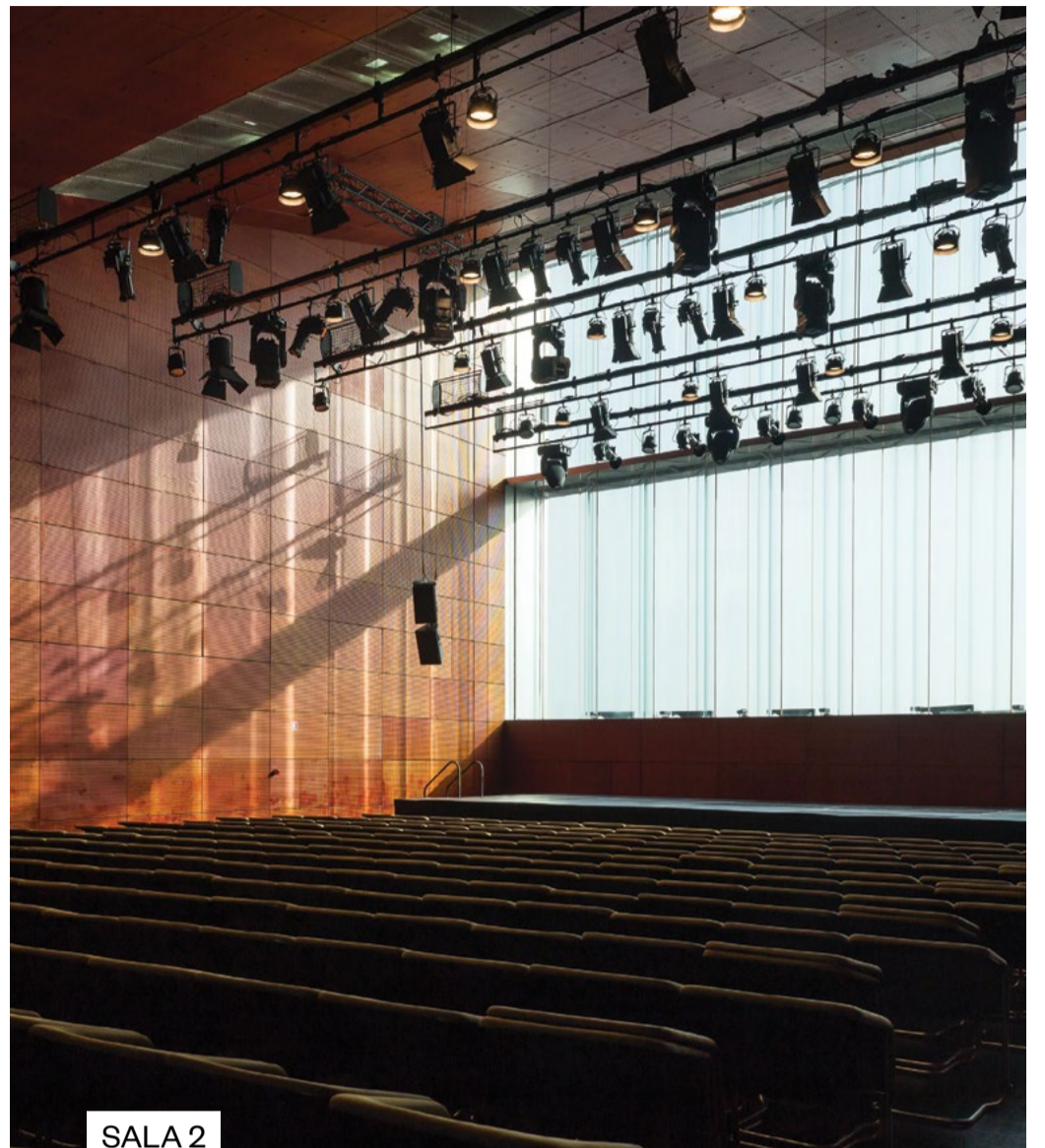
# ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT



SALA SUGGIA

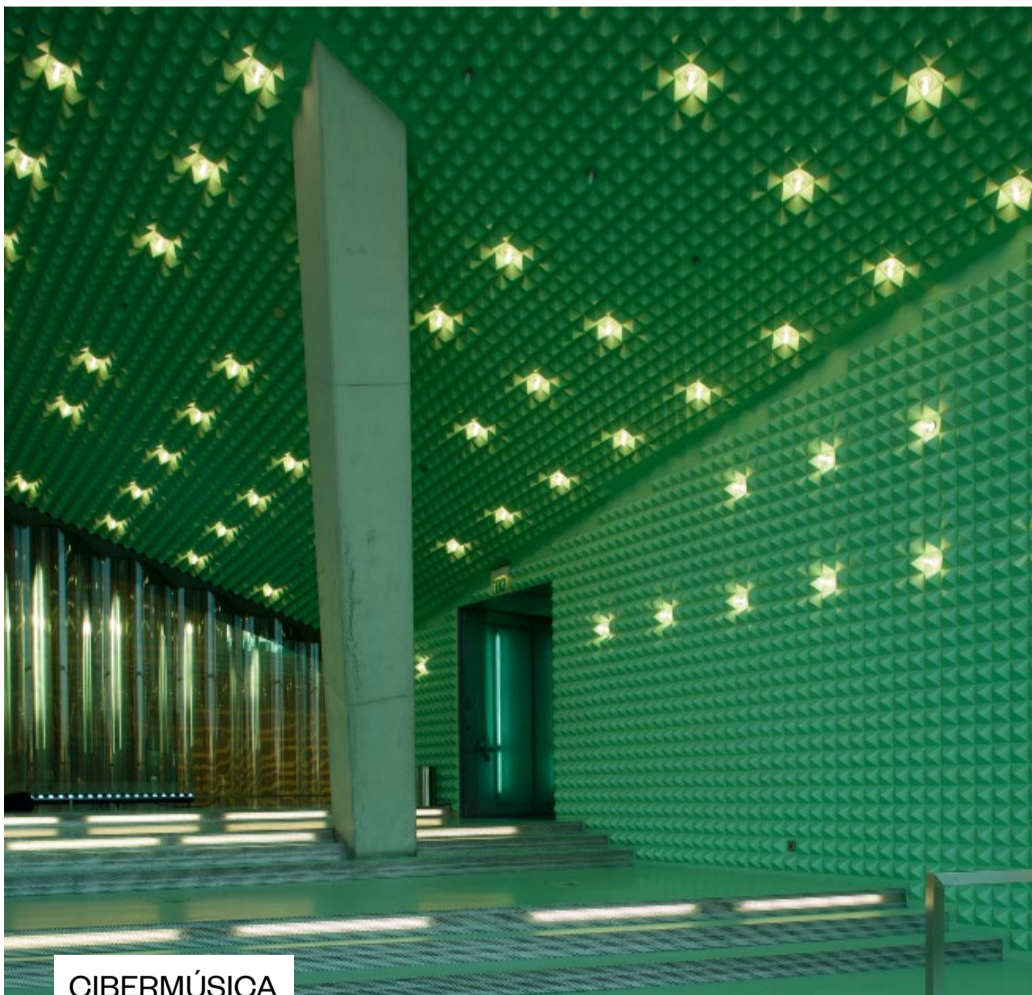
This veune is considered the heart or soul of Casa da Música, visually connecting with the other public spaces of the building through glazed areas. Here, visitors are surrounded by a welcoming layer of golden wood panels, soft upholstery, and delicate layers of glass curtains. Silver and gold tones dominate the interior decoration, intentionally contrasting with the play of light provided by the glass. It

serves as the anchor of the entire building, allowing ascending paths around it, creating sequentially, through its 7 windows, different viewing angles. The main space of this concert hall is named Sala Suggia, in honor of the cellist Guilhermina Suggia, born in Porto in 1885, considered by many as the best cellist in the world in the first half of the last century. Number of seats: 1200



SALA 2

Sala 2, clad in red, was designed for general versatility, able to host any type of concert or event. The floor is flat, without fixed chairs, allowing performances with or without an audience. It features optimized natural acoustics and lighting and sound infrastructures designed to serve the space's convertibility. Number of seats: 280 to 650



CIBERMÚSICA

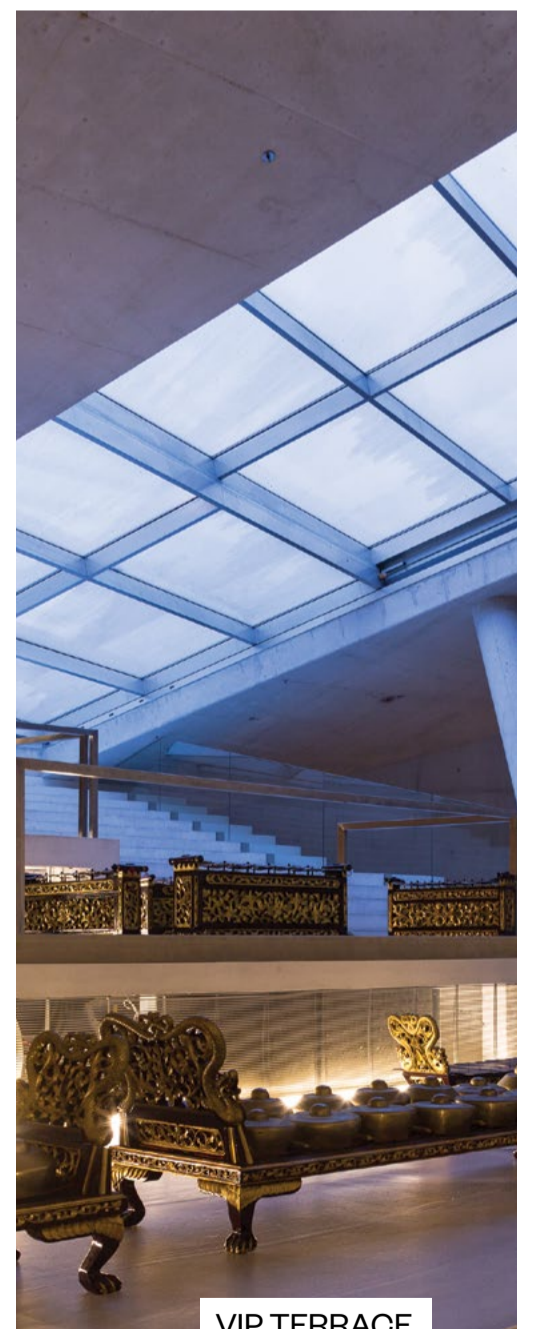
This room, due to its configuration, has very particular acoustic conditions. The unique finish of its walls and ceiling (pyramids, reminiscent of Casa dos Bicos) provides acoustic conditions for the enjoyment of amplified music. Its coating materials, rubber and polyurethane foam on one side, and concrete on the other, create a unique double acoustic effect, which can be experienced auditorily by visitors, inviting them to clap

their hands in the opposite corners of the room and listen to the propagation of this sound, which happens in two distinct ways: the concrete side produces a clearer, colder, and more natural sound, while the rubber corner will make the clap sound more controlled, warmer, and fuller. A multifunctional space, it serves as a meeting place, lectures, conferences, presentations, small concerts, and even birthday parties.



VIP ROOM

In this room, Rem Koolhaas paid homage to Portuguese tile work, learned in the Netherlands. Each of its panels reproduces originals installed in various museum spaces in Portugal and the Netherlands. This space was developed with the aim of creating a presentation room, a small business card of the Casa itself.

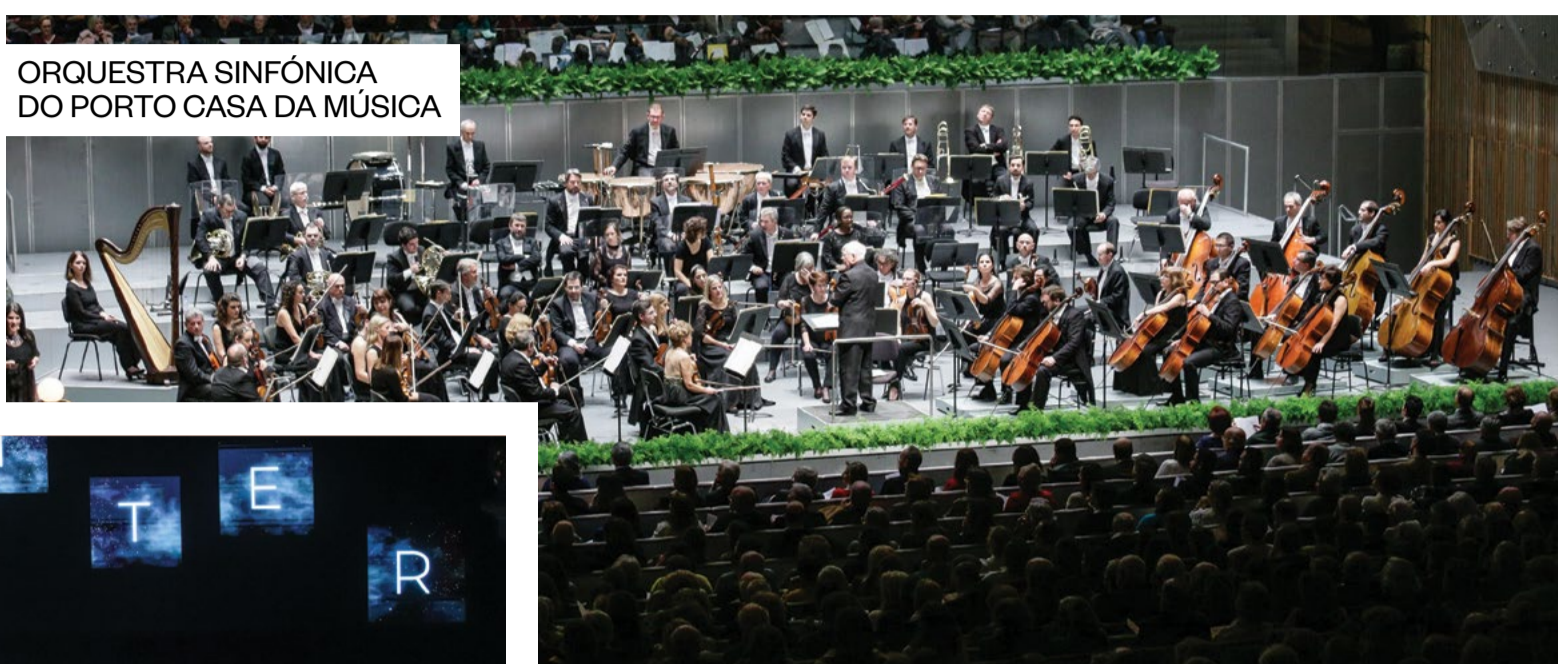


VIP TERRACE

The VIP terrace is a spacious area on one of the highest floors of the building, divided into platforms with a glass ceiling that opens to the sky. Its main function is to support various events, such as conferences, public presentations, or receptions.

# ARTISTIC PROJECT

**Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música** reached its symphonic dimension in October 2000. With 88 permanent musicians, it is now a stylistically versatile ensemble, capable of performing classical, romantic, and contemporary repertoires at the highest level. Each season, over 150 musicians are invited to join the orchestra.



ORQUESTRA SINFÓNICA DO PORTO CASA DA MÚSICA



REMIX ENSEMBLE CASA DA MÚSICA

**Remix Ensemble Casa da Música** was created in October 2000. With a core formation of 15 specialized musicians and regular activity, Remix has become one of the most esteemed ensembles dedicated to promoting contemporary music in

Europe since its inception. With over 160 concerts performed in the most relevant music centers, it is the most international Portuguese instrumental ensemble ever.



ORQUESTRA BARROCA & CORO CASA DA MÚSICA

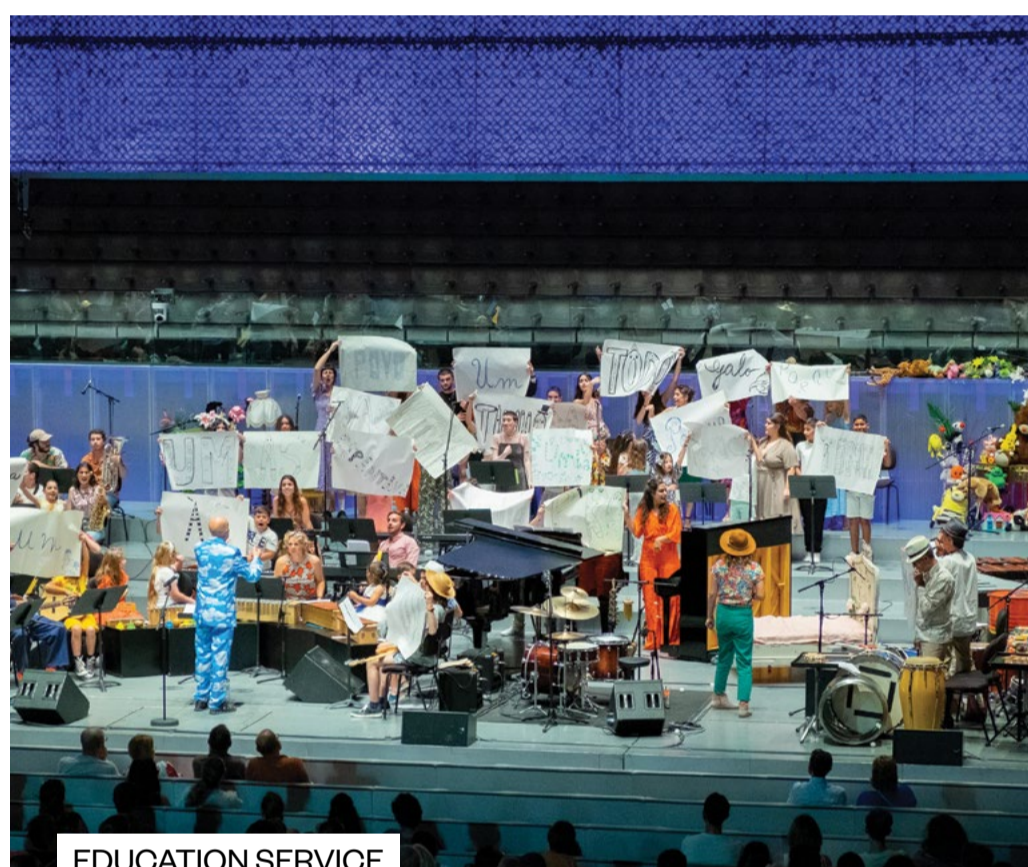
**Orquestra Barroca Casa da Música** was created in January 2006. It specializes in performing baroque music on period instruments, from a historically informed perspective. The energy it puts into its performances has generated a loyal and enthusiastic audience.

**Coro da Casa da Música** was created in October 2009. With a core formation of 18 singers, sufficient for most of its cappella concerts, it varies in size depending on the repertoire it accompanies with the instrumental ensembles of Casa da Música. It is the ensemble that covers the broadest time span, from the High Middle Ages to the present day.



CORO INFANTIL DA CASA DA MÚSICA

**Coro Infantil da Casa da Música** was created in September 2017. As a result of continuous training work in three basic education schools in the Porto region, involving about 300 children, it consists of 50 voices selected from this expanded base.



EDUCATION SERVICE

Once education is not synonymous with school, the **Education Service** exists so that everyone can build their relationships with music: superficial or profound, rational or affective, abstract or concrete, in one or several styles, with these or those means. Thus, there are activities for babies, children, young people, adults,

seniors, citizens with special needs, people with or without musical experience, and teachers. Community and participatory projects are also part of the regular activities of the Education Service, developed not only at Casa da Música but also in the field, often in institutions where communities gather.



2005—2023 (18 YEARS)

5,000 concerts  
3.5 million spectators

**EDUCATION SERVICE**  
18,000 educational activities  
300,000 Spectators  
200,000 Participants  
1,000 Community groups  
150 Schools annually

**GUIDED TOURS**  
500,000 Visitors

Since its opening, Casa da Música has presented an unusual programming and production capacity, covering symphonic music, chamber music, choral music, jazz, pop-rock, world music, shows for children and youth, cine-concerts, and the interpretation of electroacoustic or spatial works.

# MAKING HISTORY SINCE 2005



LOU REED



GORAN BREGOVIC



JANE BIRKIN



AL DI MEOLA



DAVE HOLLAND



PUSSY RIOT



JÚLIO PEREIRA



SEU JORGE



CAMANE



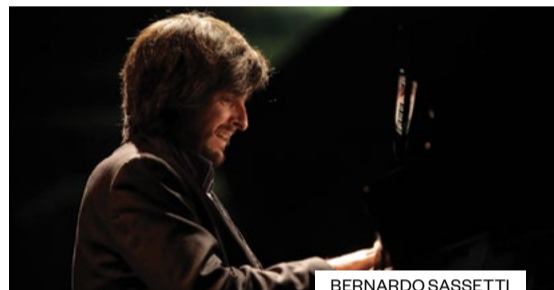
ANTHONY BRAXTON



HERBIE HANCOCK



NEY MATOGROSSO



BERNARDO SASSETTI



RUI REINHINO



MILTON NASCIMENTO



CARLOS DO CARMO



PAULO DE CARVALHO



KIMMO POHJONEN



NITIN SAWHNEY



MARIZA



GILBERTO GIL



PACO PENA



JEFF MILLS



LAST NOMADS OF RAJASTHAN



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MDS

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Cerealis

CIN

Continental

El Corte Inglés

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LACTOGAL

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