

This thesis contains an attempt to describe the way that an insightful performer and interpreter should approach the music of Portuguese composer Joly Braga Santos. It contains the biography and description of the work of the composer, as well as an analysis of two selected works. The examples are: The Viola Concerto and his String Quartet No. 2, with a special attention paid to the viola part. The study culminates with recordings of both works, made and performed by the author of this thesis.

Another aspect of this work is the element of traditional music and folklore, its definition and source, and an attempt to describe its influence on Portuguese music, specifically the composer, and the selected examples.

The whole thesis has several perspectives: apart from the fore mentioned, there is also reference to Portugal and its history, to the country as a cultural region and the homeland of the composer. There are also relative narratives from sources, both past and present, sharing their personal experiences and opinions, often first-hand.

All this is complemented by the search for an individual interpretation style which reflects the complexity of the Portuguese influence.

PhD thesis title:

Reflection of elements of traditional Portuguese music and their influence in the interpretation and performance in selected works by Joly Braga Santos with special focus on his compositional relationship with the viola.

Keywords - Portuguese music, Joly Braga Santos, music for viola, folklore, traditional music