



20 DEC
18:00

Charity Christmas Concert

Centro de Congressos de Lagoa

Lagoa Municipal Council and the Rotary Club of Praia da Rocha, in collaboration with other Rotary Clubs in the Algarve and the Associação Cultural Ideias do Levante, present a Christmas Charity Concert, to be held at the Lagoa Congress Centre on 20 December 2026 at 6:00 pm.

The concert will feature the Algarve International Orchestra, under the musical direction of conductor Peter Fudge, and the Algarve International Choir, conducted by Maria Saramago, with soprano soloist Carla Pontes.

Lasting approximately two hours, including a 30-minute interval, the concert offers a musical celebration of the Christmas spirit, bringing together musicians and performers of different nationalities in a cultural and charitable event.

Half of the proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Centro de Apoio a Idosos de Ferragudo (CAIF) — Elderly Support Centre in Ferragudo, helping to support its mission of providing care and assistance to the elderly population of Ferragudo.

Numbered tickets are priced at €20 and are subject to the usual discounts. They can be purchased from Lagoa Municipal Council's ticket outlets — Balcão Único, the Carlos do Carmo Auditorium Box Office and the Convent of São José Cultural Centre — through BOL-Município de Lagoa, or from FNAC, Worten and CTT stores.

More than just a concert, this will be an opportunity to celebrate Christmas through music while also supporting a cause of recognised social importance within the Algarve community.



Algarve International Orchestra

The Algarve International Orchestra was founded in 2021 by its Music Director, conductor Peter Fudge, with the aim of creating a regional musical environment open to musicians of different ages, nationalities and levels of experience.

As a community-based orchestra, it was established with the mission of bringing together Portuguese and foreign musicians living in the Algarve, united by their enjoyment of and passion for orchestral music. Since its foundation, it has become an important meeting point for different cultures and generations, promoting participation, learning and musical exchange.

The Algarve International Orchestra is currently the only full-scale amateur orchestra in the Algarve, bringing together musicians ranging in age from 12 to over 65. Its members come from across the region, from Lagos to Vila Real de Santo António, and regularly represent eight or nine different nationalities.

Based in Paderne, a few kilometres north of Albufeira, the orchestra holds regular weekend rehearsals, giving its members the opportunity to develop their musical skills while taking part in public performances and musical projects.

The orchestra is composed predominantly of intermediate- to advanced-level amateur musicians, together with several professional musicians, both currently active and retired. This diversity is also reflected in the members' professional backgrounds and life experiences, embodying the inclusive and intergenerational nature of the project.

The orchestra also includes a significant number of Portuguese music students, contributing to their artistic development and providing valuable opportunities to gain orchestral experience.

More than simply an orchestra, the Algarve International Orchestra is a multicultural and intergenerational musical community where different backgrounds, experiences and nationalities come together through a universal language: music.

ALGARVE INTERNATIONAL CHOIR

The Algarve International Choir is a regional, non-profit choral project established on the initiative of the Associação Cultural Ideias do Levante. Under the artistic direction of conductor Maria Saramago, the choir has a charitable and community-focused mission, bringing together amateur and experienced singers — adults and young people aged 12 and over — from a range of nationalities, whether residents or visitors to the region.

SOPRANO CARLA PONTES

Carla Pontes is a lyric coloratura soprano whose career is characterised by versatility and by the blending of classical tradition with other musical languages. Her voice and interpretation encompass opera, early music, fado and contemporary music, exploring different forms of expression while maintaining a strong artistic identity.

Bar Service from 5:00 PM provided by Catering Tiago