

## **Translating the revolution: the international circulation of Fernando Lopes-Graça's *Heroic songs***

The Portuguese composer Fernando Lopes-Graça (1906-1994) was a prominent figure of the democratic resistance against the Estado Novo dictatorship. Between 1945 and the Carnation Revolution in 1974, Lopes-Graça wrote an impressive amount of political choral music, latter known as the *Heroic songs*, largely inspired by the musical repertoire of the Popular Front in France and the republican side during the Spanish Civil War. These choral songs circulated widely in Portugal among both legal and illegal opposition groups during the dictatorship, and were performed in political underground meetings, unauthorised strikes and demonstrations, student rallies and inside the regime's political prisons. Less known is the circulation of these songs outside Portugal, particularly in the cultural networks of the international communist movement after the Second World War. Fernando Lopes-Graça was greatly involved in this movement, participating actively in the Congress of Composers and Music Critics in Prague in 1948 and contributing to the creation of the International Association of Progressive Musicians. In 1946, his friend Louis Saguer, also a composer and choir conductor, suggested to translate some of Lopes-Graça's *Heroic songs* to be performed in French by the Paris Popular Choir, an ensemble linked to the French Communist Party, thus initiating a wider dissemination of these songs. Based on Lopes-Graça's writings on political song and his personal correspondence with other progressive composers (such as Louis Saguer, Panos Dzélepy and Alan Bush), this presentation will discuss the translation of his *Heroic songs* in French, Greek and Russian, and the implications of these exchanges both at a musical and textual level. We will also address the political significance of the circulation of translated protest songs in the international communist movement during the Cold War period.

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