



Press Release

INFORMATION UNDER EMBARGO

UNTIL 27TH JANUARY 11 A.M.(LISBON TIME), 12 (IN ROME)

World Youth Day Lisbon 2023 theme song

Official theme song invites the young people to identify themselves with Mary

*Everyone will hear our voice, / Todos vão ouvir a nossa voz,
Let us lift our arms, There's a rush in the air. / Levantemos os braços, há pressa no ar.
Jesus lives and does not leave us alone: / Jesus vive e não nos deixa sós:
We will not cease to love. / Não mais deixaremos de amar.*

(Literal translation of the Chorus of the theme song «Há Pressa no Ar»)

The World Youth Day Lisbon 2023 theme song, entitled “Há Pressa no Ar”, was released this Wednesday, 27th January. The song, inspired on the WYD Lisbon 2023 theme [«Mary rose up and went with haste (Lc1,39)»], is about the ‘yes’ of Mary and about her rush to meet her cousin Elizabeth, just like the Bible verse says.

“Há Pressa no Ar” has lyrics by João Paulo Vaz, a priest, and music by Pedro Ferreira, teacher, and musician, both from the Diocese of Coimbra, in the centre region of Portugal. The arrangements were made by the musician Carlos Garcia.

The theme song was recorded in two versions: in Portuguese and in an international version that gathers five languages (Portuguese, English, Spanish, French and Italian).

When singing this theme song, the young people from all over the world are invited to identify themselves with Mary, disposing themselves to serve, to the mission and to the transformation of the world.

The lyrics also evokes the party of the WYD and the joy that comes from Jesus.



The contest that chose the theme song

The official theme song of the WYD Lisbon 2023 was selected through a national contest, opened to the participation of Portuguese people (with legal age). The Local Organization Committee (LOC) received more than one hundred participations, that were evaluated by a jury of Arts and Music professionals.

As main requirements to participate in the competition it was asked for the contestants to inspire themselves in the WYD 2023 theme, defined by Pope Francis; on the aims of the WYD, highlighting the one of evangelization; on the Portuguese culture.

The producing process was completed last year, and it involved young people from all the country, some of them were participants in the competition who, besides not being selected, were involved in the final recording.

A song that was born to gather

The melody was born before the lyrics, the authors say. Pedro Ferreira, 41 years old, composed, in a “small room, alone, by the piano”, a melody “thought to congregate, to gather a community”. With some other friends of the “Parish Band”, his musical group, he asked the father João Paulo Vaz to write the lyrics. “Not changing the melody, and with the guitar in my hands, I started writing, just like I usually do”, recalls the priest of 51 years old.

“The theme of the Portuguese edition [‘Mary rose up and went with haste’ (Lc 1, 39)] made me revise my relationship with the Mother and, then, the lyrics creative process became, for me, a very deep time of praying.”, shares João Paulo Vaz.

Concerning the style, the contest asked for “ a popular song, cheerful, young, easy to learn and easy to translate and to adapt”. The musical arrangements of “Ha Pressa no Ar” were made by the musician Carlos Garcia. “When listening to the song, Carlos ends up by making the melody of his own and, by doing a remarkable work – does not change its structure or its form – enriches it uniquely”, highlights the author of the melody, Pedro Ferreira, who was the founder of the portuguese band “Anaquim”, among several musical projects.



**MATERIALS UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY (27th JANUARY) AT 11 A.M.
(LISBON TIME), 12 IN ROME**

Áudio <https://we.tl/t-s0ujlXGQiu>

Video (version in Portuguese) <https://we.tl/t-aEk4bUgarZ>

Video (international version) <https://we.tl/t-WBI3VC3Puh>

Pictures of the authors of the music, lyrics and arrangements
<https://we.tl/t-oVNBvRaWVY>

For more information and interviews, please contact the WYD Lisbon 2023 press office on the email press@lisboa2023.org

www.lisboa2023.org | [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/wyd2023lisboa) | [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/wyd2023lisboa) | [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/wyd2023lisboa) | [twitter](https://twitter.com/wyd2023lisboa)

Lisbon, 27th January 2021