

Rodrigo Leão

„Avis 2020“ EP



**Release date: 17th July BMG International
Single „Transporte 20“ out on 19th June 2020**

Rodrigo Leão's refuge is also ours now

His latest album, *O Método*, was released at the end of February, when the confinement resulting from the pandemic was about to begin. Now, already in deconfiguration, here is the single *Transporte 20*, and a new EP with nine *Avis 2020* themes, reflecting the last few months.

Each of us had very different experiences during the confinement caused by the pandemic. Rodrigo Leão proved the tranquility, the isolation, the time to imagine. "The truth is that during the past few months I have felt a sense of creative freedom that I have longed for," he says. Time stretched. He read like never before. He went for walks in the fields with his family. He reflected. And the inspiration came effortlessly.

That was how small ideas of songs came up through drawings, photographs and short videos. And now there is the EP *Avis 2020*, eight original instrumental themes, small elegiac pieces that both expose tranquility and the pleasant passage of time, as well as some tension, giving meaning to the particular period lived in recent months. In between there is a new version for *Transporte 20*, one of the themes included in the album *O Método*, published in February this year.

"I was fortunate to be confined outside Lisbon, in the Alentejo, near Avis, with my family and two friends. We were together for two months in this unexpected refuge, a kind of bubble, in which I felt more human and, somehow, happier", he confesses. "Only the news woke me up to the harsh reality and everything I did during this unique moment ended up being connected."

It was strange at first. I had just released a new album. The creative appeal was distant. But three weeks later, he decided to go to Lisbon to look for material, among synthesizers, ukelele, bass and melodic, to record. "The first sound sketches were not convincing, but then I started making some drawings and some videos with the iPhone, which I put on social networks, with pieces of music made spontaneously to illuminate them. They were simple things but I was encouraged

because they reflected that time and space. "

That was how the new themes were born, which, in the final phase, had the collaboration of "two longtime friends", says Rodrigo Leão. "In late May, for two days, already in Lisbon, it was with João Eleutério and Pedro Oliveira, who made the mixes and they also ended up co-producing Avis' themes ", he says. The naturalness of the gestures dominates in the new EP. You can hear the country atmosphere, animals, birds and goats in the music. Be aware of the footsteps of human beings through dirt paths or through herbs. You can feel the wind and time passing by, winter, spring, the volumetry of the clouds, nature changing skin, colors, shapes, flowers opening. "The truth is that I had never been this long in a row in Alentejo", reflects Rodrigo Leão. "And seeing all this changing, nature changing, was very rewarding, although we are aware and also concerned with what is happening. and that we were in a privileged situation. "

In Avis 2020, Rodrigo Leão, gives us his refuge in these contradictory times, where on the one hand we had access to time and silence, and on the other hand, anxiety and uncertainty. As always, in your music, there are no certainties, just the generous sharing of doubts that are diluted in sounds that convey the involvement of those who do not give up understanding. It was already like that in O Método, where the family was also sensed to surround him and the search for silence. In this case, the adventure began in late 2017. When he recorded the first sketches, he was also uncertain. He wanted it to be a work that marked a new period in his career, closer to contemporary composers such as Nils Frahm, Ólafur Arnalds or Max Richter, without losing their identity. And that is how he arrived at the magnificent Italian musician and producer Federico Albanese, also from the same school of creators who feels as comfortable with classical piano as with environmental electronics.

"The first working sessions were not easy, but we quickly came up with a working method that allowed us to get closer to the ideas we were looking for," he says. "Federico was important in this process, proposing different arrangements and instruments. With your help, my ideas started to make sense and the more minimalist and ethereal environment I wanted was now more visible. " The Method turned out to be the album where he played the most acoustic piano. It is contained and refined work. But, as always, there are invited voices, such as that of Casper Clausen (from the Danish Efterklang); that of Russian violinist and singer Viviana Tupikova, based in Portugal; the singer Ângela Silva, with whom she has worked for a long time; and the choir of the Musical Association of Friends of Children.

It is an open work, looking for timeless answers about the meaning of life, which will probably never arrive, at least