

## **Transcript of The Audio Recording by Lucas Gabriel Loureiro (Pedro Homem de Mello Folk Dance Group) 🗣️**

The Pedro Homem de Mello Folk Dance Group was founded on November 27, 1988, thanks to a group of friends who came together with the goal of perpetuating, preserving, and cultivating the memory and culture of the Portuguese people in the city of São Paulo. The group's name pays homage to Dr. Pedro Homem de Mello, the greatest folklorist and poet Portugal has ever had. His work in collecting and celebrating folk traditions serves as the guiding principle for the group, which strives to maintain the utmost ethnographic accuracy in every performance.

Today, the group has about 50 members, including Brazilians,

Portuguese-Brazilians, and Portuguese nationals. In the photo, we can see a woman holding the flag—the banner of our Pedro Homem de Mello Folk Dance Group. This woman is wearing the peasant woman's costume from the DEM region of Caminha, Alto Minho, Portugal. This costume was worn only on days of pilgrimages and festivals, and was not intended for everyday life or routine work. Although it is called a “farmer's costume,” it was not the outfit worn for farming or going to the fields, but rather the costume that signified social status—that is, the profession or trade—of both the husband and the wife. This specific costume is exceptionally rich in color, as the Serra Darga—the region where the DEM is located, which belongs to the Caminha Council—distinguishes itself from the costumes of other regions within the Alto Minho itself.

On display, for example, we have another type of peasant costume: the Dó peasant costume. This costume was typically worn by married women, but especially by women in mourning. A wife would mourn her husband.

This photo was taken at the Immigrant Festival in 2025. Some members of the Pedro Homem de Melo Folk Dance Group participated in this Immigrants' Festival, each performing different roles. In the ensemble, we have the male and female lead singers, known as the soloists for the songs.

We also have the choir, which sings the chorus—the refrain—of each melody. In addition, of course, there's the concertina—the queen of

folklore—along with the cavaquinhos, guitar, bombo drum, and ferrinho, which provide the percussion and set the tempo for the songs. We also have the dance troupe—the male and female dancers—who bring all these melodies and traditional songs to life.

\_\_It was a way of dancing and giving thanks for the harvest. Besides, of course, being a time of fellowship for those humble people—a people with an agricultural culture—who would always gather in the churchyards in the late afternoon to dance, sing, and then return to their daily lives as rural workers. Today, of course, they are no longer rural workers, but even so, the folk groups and dance troupes scattered throughout Brazil and around the world aim not only to perpetuate the culture and preserve this history but also to foster fellowship among friends and colleagues, thus forming one big family.