

David Silveira Garcia was born on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1980 in San Jose, California to two adoring Azorean immigrant parents, Rosa Maria and António Garcia. Since David's parents had only been in the U.S. for six years, David was raised in the true, old-fashioned Portuguese way: only speaking Portuguese and listening to all genres of Portuguese music.

He attended private Catholic school at *Five Wounds* from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade where he graduated in 1995. He then went on to attend his four years of high school at *San Jose High Academy*, where he was enrolled in their *International Baccalaureate Program* for Portuguese Studies. He then received his certificate of proficiency in the language when he graduated in June of 1999.

At a young age, David developed a love of music, whether it was singing or playing an instrument. In 1993, David began learning the Alto Sax, and only in a few months, was ready to play for the *Portuguese Band of San Jose*, where he played for fourteen years. Within those fourteen years, he played the Alto Sax, the Tenor Sax, the Baritone Sax, and the Bass Drum when needed. In 1997, he became the band's Assistant Conductor, having also served as president of the organization from 2002-2003.

David began playing the mandolin in the mid 90's, having been taught the scale by his great-uncle, Luis Garcia da Rosa, who was a well know mandolin player, poet, and writer, both in the Azores and in the Portuguese community of San Jose. David joined a Portuguese dance group, *Grupo Típico*, where he played mandolin for about five years. At the young age of ten, he assisted in teaching the mandolin to other Luso-descendant children who were also in the dance group. After the extinction of the group, David later joined *Grupo Folclórico Tempos de Outrora* in 2004, a world-renowned Azorean folklore group, where he currently plays the mandolin and sings as well. With this group, he has traveled to Hawaii, Canada, Azores, and Brazil teaching the Azorean traditions through dance and song. He served as president for this group for several years and has high expectations and plans for the future of this group.

In 2001, David became very involved with Carnival dances for Mardi Gras, one of the most popular traditions from the island of Terceira in the Azores, which has now become extremely popular on all the islands, and in all areas of the world where there are Azorean communities. David joined the Carnival group *Grupo de Danças de Carnaval da Banda Portuguesa de São José*, known today as *Os Independentes*, and played several roles in

dramatic and comedic skits. He is still often referred to as some of the characters he has played, most particularly the roles of a Bishop, Miss California, and Mother Superior. He has been lucky enough to travel to Canada and the East Coast twice with this group, and actually spend Carnaval Weekend in Terceira as well.

For the past several years, Manuel Escobar, a musician of *7 Colinas*, had heard David sing several times in the folklore group and Carnaval group. Mr. Escobar had been encouraging David to pursue Fado. Since he was so active and involved in the community, David's time was limited, and he was afraid of overcommitting and not being able to keep up with everything. In April of 2009 a dear friend, H3lio Beir3o, asked for David's assistance in putting together a variety show for a fundraiser gala dinner for POSSO (Portuguese Organization for Social Services and Opportunities) in San Jose. This program consisted of community youth members singing and playing traditional folklore songs with a classical twist. It was such a success that this group was invited to perform twice more that year, and is preparing future events as well. This was the first time David would sing solo on a stage, and it was his first step to heading towards Fado.

After hearing David perform with H3lio Beir3o, it was only a matter of days before the group *7 Colinas* began rehearsing with him. Even as a child, when he began to listen to Fado, David always imagined setting foot in the world as Fadista one day. He idolizes fadistas like Carlos Macedo, Fernando Farinha, Carlos do Carmo, Am3lia Rodrigues, Mariza, and many others.

Helder Carvalheira, Manuel Escobar, and Jo3o Cardadeiro from *7 Colinas* have been the backbone for David's journey into the Fado world. Their constructive criticism, advice, and support have led David to a new chapter in his life, and having had a family filled with poets and musicians, it's no surprise that David is now a Fadista. David had his first Fado night in January of 2011. Just a year later, he was already releasing his first Fado CD, "*Fados d'Alma Lusa*" which has reached airwaves in 14 countries across the globe. Since then, he has performed over 150 shows singing alongside more than 80 Fadistas and having been accompanied by more than 25 guitarristas. He has sung all throughout California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Canada, the Azores, and even in some Fado houses of Lisbon in Bairro Alto and Alfama.

David raised the bar with the release of his second CD, “*Palco da Vida*”, where he comes into the world of Fado as a songwriter. In this album, David has two original Fados. The first, “*Realidade de um Sonho*,” elucidates in poetry and song the experience he had when he sang for the first time in the Fado taverns of Lisbon in 2013. The second, “*Joia Negra do Mar*,” describes his roots and the homeland of his ancestors from the island of Pico in the Azores. These Fados, along with three other original lyrics written by Hélio Costa, Abel Raposo Sr., and Fábio Ourique, two original music compositions by Helder Carvalheira, and several traditional Fados from the 60’s and 70’s, bring together a collection of relatable emotions and life experiences in a personalized style as part of his “Stage of Life” (*Palco da Vida*). It’s no surprise that this album was recognized by the Recording Academy in consideration for the 61st ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS in 2018.

In 2021, David had the pleasure of working on a project with several Portuguese artists from around the world where David represented the United States. This project showcased a virtual Portuguese global community embracing 6 continents, 10 countries, and 10 singers, with their anthem, “*ABRAÇOS*” (HUGS). This song not only unites the artists, but it is able to capitalize on showing the world the best of what the Portuguese culture has to offer. It demonstrates a variety of Portuguese artists abroad who embrace their individuality, their culture, and their music. This song also identifies the participating artists in the album which commemorated the centennial of the beloved, Amália Rodrigues; *AMÁLIA EVERYWHERE* released on June 10, 2021.

Even though many shows came to a halt during the pandemic, it did not hinder David and his guitarrista, Helder Carvalheira, from further developing their poetic and musical creativity. In December of 2020, David and Helder released their first fado single, “*Negra Solidão*”. This fado put into song the struggles many had been facing while in quarantine, dealing with isolation, and uncertainty. In July of 2021, on the 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of Amália Rodrigues, David released his second fado single, “*Rainha*”. This was a perfect opportunity to pay tribute to the dearly departed Fado Queen with this original Fado, co-written by David and dear friend, Deolinda M. Adão. This single fado is also part of the worldwide tribute album previously mentioned, *AMALIA EVERYWHERE*. During the month of September 2021 (on World Peace Day) David released his third fado single, “*Fado Igualdade*”. This fado looks back through the

years and reflects on how deeply divided we are, how far we've come, and how far we still need to go to truly achieve human equality. All three singles, being composed, arranged, engineered, and produced by Helder Carvalheira, were also released with a music video filmed and produced by his son, Evan Carvalheira, with Shot by Nave. These videos are all available on YouTube, while also being available on iTunes, Spotify, & Pandora along with both records David has released.

To stay up to date with David's upcoming performances and projects, be sure to visit his website at [www.davidsilveiragarcia.com](http://www.davidsilveiragarcia.com).