



THE FOLKLORE AND POPULAR CULTURE OF THE BOATMEN

The folklore and popular culture that developed among the boatmen was inspired by their work on the river and the land, in particular the vineyards. The most common folk instruments were the triangle, the bombo drum, the accordion, the guitar and the castanets.

Fui ao Douro às vindimas (I went to the Douro at Harvest time) was a popular folk song among the Boatmen. It refers to the harvest season in Douro. Harvest time is very important to the people of Douro, as it represents the end of the growing phase and the start of the winemaking phase.

The folk culture of Barqueiros includes many other songs dedicated to work on the river, as Amor deita a barca ao rio (Love set the boat on the river), which tells of the daily lives of the boatmen, and Chula Rabela.

“CHULA RABELA”

“Chula Rabela” is considered to be the most characteristic folk song of the Barqueiros community. Integral to their folklore, it pays homage to the captains and their crews.

In Barqueiros, a very unique and unusual instrument is used: fig wood castanets, whose unmistakable sound marks the rhythm of the tune or the dance.