



## Untold European Stories

### The Project

The aim of our project is to raise the awareness of teachers and students that we are building the future with stories and perspectives from today and from the past. The dimensions of diversity are often overlooked, and many stories are not told.

In this project, teachers and students will explore examples of migrants and women from different countries who have made important achievements and however, are not well known.

### Guilhermina Suggia

(Porto, São Nicolau, 27 de junho de 1885 – Porto, 30 de julho de 1950)

### Biography

Guilhermina Augusta Xavier de Medin **Suggia**, was born in Porto, his father was a cellist at the Royal Theater of São Carlos in Lisbon. He gladly moved to Porto when he was invited to teach at Santa Casa da Misericórdia School in Matosinhos.

In 1906, Suggia met Casals in Paris and began to share with him the same house, Villa Molitor.

In 1913 she left Pau Casals and moved to London.

In 1924 Suggia bought a house on Rua da Alegria in the city of Porto and three years later she married the doctor José Casimiro Carteador Mena, having no descendants.

### Work

Guilhermina started learning musical theory and cello with her father at the age of 5, she made her first public performance in Matosinhos, at the age of 7.

At the age of 13 she became the principal cellist of the local orchestra, the Orpheon Portuense.

A few months later, the Portuguese crown offered her a scholarship to study in Leipzig with Julius Klengel. In November 1902, she made an historic performance with the Gewandhaus Orchestra, having been the youngest soloist to play with the famous ensemble.

In 1913 Suggia moved to London where she played with the Royal Philharmonic Society, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra. Her recitals at the Royal Albert Hall and Wigmore Hall, became famous.

In the late 1940s, Suggia and Maria Adelaide Freitas Gonçalves, Headmaster of the Conservatory of Music of Porto created the Symphonic Orchestra of the Conservatory.

On May 31, 1950 she plays for the last time in public at a recital at Teatro Aveirense.

