



Contemporary
Brazilian Music



Louis Arques clarinet
Richard Boukas guitar, composer

ClarinetFest 2021 “Flowers Without Borders”

International Clarinet Association
Virtual Convention July 9-25, 2021 (continuous stream beginning July 16)

Program

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Manhoso (choro)* | ded. Jacob do Bandolim |
| 2 Sambando Na Praia (samba-choro)* | ded. Radamés Gnattali |
| 3 Improvisível (samba)** | ded. Chico Buarque |
| 4 Coco Pouco Loco (coco)** | ded. Jackson do Pandeiro |

** World Premiere

* from the CD “Choro Tributes”

All music composed and arranged by Richard Boukas, © 2021 Diatessaron Music Publishing

Composer Notes

Manhoso (Sly) is a choro from the suite *Dozen Choro Tributes*. *Jacob do Bandolim* (1917-1969) was the most prominent Choro musician of his generation and leader of famed group *Época de Ouro*. The piece is in traditional **AABBACCA** form and has a surprise modulation in the last A section.

Sambando Na Praia (Samba on the Beach, also from *Dozen Choro Tributes*), melds virtuosic choro melody with samba’s rhythmic groove. Dedicated to the prolific master *Radamés Gnattali* (1906-1988), its jazz influence is evident in the thematic writing and harmonies. The form is **AABACA**.

Improvisível (Unpredictable) is from the eighth suite for the Duo, *Sambistas Imortais*. A relaxed samba dedicated to musical icon *Chico Buarque* (b. 1944), its singable melody is offset by elusive harmonic progressions, utilizing frequent inversions to navigate a constantly shifting tonal center. This co-existence of melodic simplicity and harmonic complexity is a hallmark of Buarque’s work.

Coco Pouco Loco (a bit crazy coco) honors the popular composer-vocalist *Jackson do Pandeiro* (1919-1982). From the seventh Duo suite, *Cantos do Nordeste*, *coco* is a common variant of *baião*, a staple genre of Northeast Brazil. Its tradition is rooted in a *desafio* (challenge) waged between two singers who play *pandeiro* (Brazilian tambourine) and trade improvised rapid-fire vocal insults.

Diálogos Duo

contemporary Brazilian music

Diálogos Duo was formed in fall of 2016. Their artistic and educational mission is to present a diverse panorama of original contemporary Brazilian music for clarinet (bass clarinet) and guitar- an instrumental tandem which is surprisingly underrepresented. Given the highly interactive chemistry between the musicians, the Duo was named “*Diálogos*” (“*Dialogues*” in Portuguese).

Louis Arques effortlessly negotiates Brazilian music’s complex melodies and rhythms, supported by Boukas’s richly textured guitar accompaniment. Their original repertoire spans a wide range of traditional Brazilian genres including *samba*, *choro*, *baião*, *frevô*, *marcha*, *maracatu*, *maxixe*, *guarânia* and *valsa*. Boukas’s through-composed works synergize robust syncopated Brazilian rhythms with sophisticated harmonies melding Brazilian, Jazz and contemporary classical vocabularies. Each movement is a tribute to a legendary Brazilian composer/musician.

Boukas’s prolific output for the Duo includes **eight suites (eighty-two movements)**- the largest body of contemporary Brazilian repertoire for clarinet and guitar worldwide: *Sambistas Imortais* (2021), *Cantos do Nordeste* (2020) *A Dozen Choro Tributes*, featured on their latest CD, *Choro Tributes* (2020); *Diálogos for Clarinet and Guitar*, *Diálogos for Bass Clarinet and Guitar* (2018) featured on their debut CD *Homages to Brazilian Masters*; *Three Choros for Bass Clarinet and Guitar* (2020), *Impressions of Minas* (2019) and *Centenário* (2018).

Diálogos repertoire is receiving ever greater visibility worldwide. *João Luiz (Brasil Guitar Duo)* states: “Arques and Boukas possess a unique connection and complete command of their cutting-edge repertoire. Their present and future works and performances will be a perennial contribution to contemporary clarinet-guitar literature and pedagogy.” Italian clarinetist and Grammy winner *Alessandro Carbonare*: “Boukas’ extensive knowledge of Brazilian styles and great gift for composing offers us a broad repertoire of tremendous value.”

Recent performances and broadcasts include *Performance Today* (American Public Radio), *NYC Classical Guitar Society*, *ClarinetFest 2019/2021* (International Clarinet Association convention), *Sacred Heart University Guitar Festival* (Fairfield, CT), *WKCR-FM Jobim Marathon* (Columbia University, NYC) and *UTTV Univ. TN/Knoxville*.

Diálogos Duo conducts virtual and onsite university residencies nationwide, using their repertoire as curriculum.

LOUIS ARQUES is a woodwind virtuoso from Grenoble, France. A *Vandoren* artist, he taught in French music schools for ten years including the *Paris Conservatoire*. Moving to New York City in fall 2016 to pursue his MA at *Mannes/New School for Performing Arts*, he has rapidly become one of New York City’s most in-demand chamber and orchestral soloists- including *String Orchestra of Brooklyn* (SOB), *Mannes Orchestra* (Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall), former co-founder of *NewOrch* and is co-artistic director of *Metamorphosis Chamber Orchestra*.

Arques is a frequent New Music collaborator, including composer *Elizabeth Hoffman* and *Mannes American Composer Ensemble*. He also plays Afro-Cuban music with *Grupo Irek*, *Sonido Costeño*, *New School Afro-Cuban Orchestra* and jazz with numerous ensembles in venues including *Birdland*. Performing early music on *Von Vittorelli’s* replicas of eighteenth century instruments, he recently joined the faculty of the *Diller-Qaile School of Music*.

RICHARD BOUKAS is an internationally recognized guitarist, vocalist, composer, educator and scholar of Brazilian music. In addition to *Diálogos Duo*, he is leader of Brazilian jazz groups *Quarteto Moderno*, *Trio Brasileiro* and *Duo Brasileiro*. Apart from his works for *Diálogos Duo*, he has composed commissions for ensembles including *La Catrina String Quartet*, *PUBLIQuartet String Quartet*, *Sopros de PE* clarinet quartet (Pernambuco, Brazil), *Berklee World String Orchestra*, *Atlantic Brass Quintet* and *Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble*. A composer member of *Chamber Music America*, his recordings as leader include *Quarteto Moderno Live! Ao Vivo!*, *Balaio* (pianist *Jovino Santos Neto*), *Live at St. Michaels* (Croatian tambura virtuoso *Filip Novosel*), *Amazônia*, *Embarcadero* and *Commitment*.

Faculty at *New School for Performing Arts/School of Jazz* since 1989, he is founder-director of *Brazilian Choro* and *Brazilian Jazz* ensembles. A recipient of the *New School Distinguished University Teaching Award*, he has been guest artist-educator at universities, festivals and masterclasses throughout the U.S.: *New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes*, *Harvard*, *Denver Univ.*, *Cincinnati Conservatory*, *Hudson Jazz Workshop*; in Brazil: *Campos do Jordão*, *São Paulo*, *UFMG/Belo Horizonte*; in Canada: *York College*, *Univ. Toronto*. He is a *La Bella Strings* artist endorsee since 1978.

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