

THE BOSSA NOVA PROJECT



ISABELLA MENDES: FOUNDER/VOCALIST/PIANIST
JOE CARTER: CO-FOUNDER/GUITARIST
ITAIGUARA BRANDÃO: BASS
ADRIANO SANTOS: DRUMS
TIM MORAN: SAX/FLUTE/PERCUSSION
FELIPE KARAM: VIOLIN/CAVAQUINHO

“[Isabella’s] expressive, pristine vocals, which can mix a sense of vulnerability with resilience and joy, have become part of her effervescent signature sound...”

~Owen McNally, WNPR Jazz Corridor, August 19, 2016

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS



ISABELLA MENDES is a singer-songwriter, pianist and educator, who is quickly becoming one of New Haven's top Brazilian, jazz, pop artists in the industry. Born in São Paulo, Brazil, Isabella began her music studies at the age 4 at one of Brazil's top music school's Zimbo Trio Music School (CLAM). She was featured as the opening act to 4-Time Grammy Nominee, Karrin Alisson, in Jazz Haven's Celebrating Women in Jazz's concerts in 2015. That same year, she released her all-original debut album "Blame Destiny" reviewed by WNPR. A few months prior she was part of a cover CD release with her former band SambaLeza Live! Currently, Isabella founded "The Bossa Nova Project", a collaboration dedicated to spread

happiness through the sounds of Brazilian music. She performs locally in several festivals and events, including but not limited to the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, Samba Fest in Hartford, and many others.

JOE CARTER has performed in such diverse places as Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba and Recife in Brazil, Bombay, Bangalore and Goa in India, Stuttgart and Paris. Joe Carter has used these experiences to form a style that combines North American Jazz with the lyrical and rhythmical aspects of Brazilian bossa nova, samba, choro and MPB. He has recorded and performed with jazz artists such as Art Farmer, Lee Konitz, Cecil Payne, Rufus Reid and others and with Brazilian artists such as Luiz Eca, Mauricio Einhorn, Robertinho Silva, Paulo Russo and others. In addition, he has recorded several CDs through the years; his most recent is Both Sides of the Equator, with bassist David Finck and percussionist Zé Mauricio. Joe is currently the Director of the Academic Music Program at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.





ITAIGUARA BRANDÃO is a New York City-based recording artist and bassist/guitarist. A native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he has toured internationally and recorded extensively with a wide range of Latin and World Music artists such as: Dom Salvador, Marcos Valle, Chuck Loeb, Leny Andrade, Paulo Braga, Randy Brecker, Roberto Menescal, Leo Gandelman, Paquito D'Rivera, Claudio Roditi, Robin

Eubanks, Jovino Santos-Neto, Dave Kikoski, Emílio Santiago, Elba Ramalho, Guilherme Arantes, Romero Lubambo, Vinicius Cantuária, Horacio Hernandez, Hugo Fattoruso, Oriente Lopez, and Paula Morelenbaum. Itaiguara has been one of the most sought-after freelance musicians in the United States, having completed nearly 6,000 performances in the past 21 years. He is featured as the double-bass player in Dom Salvador's "The Art Of Samba Jazz," winner of the prestigious Premio da Musica Brasileira (the Brazilian Grammy) for "Best Instrumental Album of 2011" and nominated among the three best instrumental groups of 2011.



ADRIANO SANTOS was born in São Paulo, Brasil in 1966. Part of a new generation of Brazilian drummers, he began his drum studies at the age of twelve at Zimbo Trio Music School (CLAM) in his hometown. In 1988 he moved to Boston to study at Berklee College of Music where he acquired his B.A. in Film Scoring. Moving to New York in 1995, Adriano started his Masters Degree at City College of New York where he had the chance to enjoy ensemble lessons with the great jazz legend Ron Carter. As a professional he has performed with top international artists such as Astrud Gilberto, Gal Costa, Leny Andrade, Bebel Gilberto, Romero Lubambo, Antônio Adolfo, Helio Alves, Claudio Roditi, Nelson Faria, Leo Gandelman, Nilson Matta, Jared Gold, Yotam Silberstein, John Pizzarelli, Slide Hampton, Harry Allen, Bill Charlap, Paul Winter and the Boston

Pops, to name a few. Adriano is currently performing with the Vinicius Cantuária Group, Matt Geraghty Project, Kenia, Hendrik Meurkens and Davi Vieira.



TIM MORAN is widely acclaimed as an innovative jazz musician on saxophone, flute and clarinet. He has performed in Europe, Japan and throughout the United States and Canada. In collaboration with percussionist Tony Vacca, he has released 5 CD's, including "Dance Beneath the Diamond Sky" on Columbia Records. He has also recorded with legendary trumpeter Don Cherry, West African musicians Foday Musa Suso and Massamba Diop, the New England Jazz Quintet and Samba Brazil. He has backed up such artists as Ella Fitzgerald, Gerry Mulligan, Freddie Hubbard and Phil Woods. Tim works frequently in pit orchestras for the national touring companies of Broadway musicals and has performed with The New Haven Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra New England.



FELIPE KARAM, violin and cavaquinho. Born in Porto Alegre, south of Brazil, Felipe graduated from Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul UFRGS and holds a Masters degree in Music Performance from City University of London. Member of the award-winning group "Cafe Acustico", which during four years developed a work based in original material, touring south of Brazil. Awarded the Açorianos Prize category Best Music Group years 1999 and

2000 and first prize at "Festival de Musica de Porto Alegre" in 1998. Spending his time between Brazil and England since 2004, Felipe released four albums in London, "Na ponta do Pé" in 2008 with the Anglo-Brazilian band Caratinga, "Landscapes" in 2008, "Seven steps from the border" in 2010 and 2013 "THREE" with the Pocket Caravan Quartet. While in the UK, Felipe has been part of "Live Music Now" scheme and has been delivering workshops and interactive performances, providing over 60 performances a year all over UK with the "Brazilian Ensemble". The group was awarded the FUNART Prize by the Federal Government of Brazil, and toured the Brazilian Amazon region in 2012. In 2016 Felipe was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach as a Visiting Scholar at the Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury CT for the 2016-2017 academic year.