

Diálogos Duo

contemporary Brazilian music

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

Louis Arques effortlessly negotiates Brazilian music’s complex rhythms and melodies, supported by Boukas’s richly textured guitar accompaniments. Their original repertoire presents a wide range of traditional Brazilian genres including *samba*, *choro*, *baião*, *frevo*, *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 includes seven suites (sixty-seven movements) - the largest body of contemporary Brazilian repertoire for clarinet and guitar worldwide: *Diálogos for Clarinet and Guitar*, *Diálogos for Bass Clarinet and Guitar* (2017) on the CD *Homages to Brazilian Masters*; *A Dozen Choro Tributes* (2019) on their new CD, *Choro Tributes* (2020); *Cantos do Nordeste*, *Three Choros for Bass Clarinet and Guitar* (2020), *Impressions of Minas* (2019) and *Centenário* (2018). The eighth suite in progress is *Sambistas Imortais*, honoring a century of master samba composers.

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 clarinet virtuoso *Alessandro Carbonare*: “Boukas’s 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)*, *WKCR-FM Jobim Birthday Marathon (NYC)* and *Sacred Heart University Guitar Festival (Fairfield, CT)*.

They are now presenting 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-Quaile 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*), *Amazôna*, *Embarcadero* and *Commitment*.

Faculty at *New School for Performing Arts/School of Jazz* since 1989, he is former 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 and festivals throughout the U.S. (*New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes, Harvard, Denver Univ, Cincinnati Conservatory*), Brazil (*Campos do Jordão, UFMG/Belo Horizonte*) and Canada (*York College, Univ. Toronto*). He is a composer member of *Chamber Music America* and *La Bella Strings* artist endorsee since 1980.

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