

## Richard Boukas Bio

Internationally acclaimed contemporary performing artist, composer, educator, author and journalist, he has led original music ensembles for forty years and performed itinerantly as a solo artist. A virtuoso guitarist and vocalist, he is recognized as one of today's most important exponents and advocates of **Brazilian music**. He has performed as a **solo guitarist/vocalist** at noted venues including *B.B. King's Latin Guitar Festival* (Blue Note Jazz Festival) and *Global Guitar Fest at Subrosa*. In 2016 he presented master class *Brazilian Guitar Panorama* at the prestigious classical guitar conference *New York Guitar Seminar* at *Mannes College / New School College of Performing Arts*.

Since 2008, Boukas is composer-leader of **Quarteto Moderno** which showcases his diverse Brazilian Jazz compositions. Featuring saxophonist *Lucas Pino*, bassist *Gustavo Amarante* and drummer *Maurício Zottarelli*, the ensemble's performances include *Hudson Hall Jazz Festival*, *Lehman College Johnny Pacheco Latin Jazz Festival*, *Branford Jazz Festival (CT)*, *Queens College Year of Brazil* and many appearances at the *New Americans Program* at *New York Public Library*. In 2016, the ensemble released its **debut CD, QUARTETO MODERNO LIVE! AO VIVO!**

Boukas is also founder and leader of **Trio Brasileiro** (with Amarante and Zottarelli) and **Duo Brasileiro** (with Amarante). Their repertoire features original compositions, classics from the **Brazilian Songbook** including those by **Minas Gerais** composers *Milton Nascimento*, *Toninho Horta*, *Sérgio Santos*; and the Brazilian acoustic guitar lineage from *Garôto* to *Guinga*.

In 2016 he formed **Diálogos Duo** with French clarinetist/bass clarinetist **Louis Arques**. The duo has presented and recorded two seven-movement cycles also called *Diálogos*. Two new multi-movement cycles will be presented in 2019: *Século* (eight movements) and *Uma Dúzia de Choros-Homenagens* (a dozen Choro tributes) which total thirty-four (34) pieces written for the ensemble. His prior acclaimed **Duo collaborations** have been with Latin Grammy-nominated pianist-composer *Jovino Santos Neto* (formerly of *Hermeto Pascoal Group*) which recorded the **CD Balaio** and Croatian tambura virtuoso *Filip Novosel* (**CD/DVD, Live at St. Micheal's**).

Richard's other recordings as leader include *Amazôna*, *Embarcadero* and *Commitment*. He also produced the landmark recording *Tudo de Bom*, dedicated to *Hermeto Pascoal's* historical collection, *Calendário do Som*. Richard is also featured vocalist-percussionist, composer-arranger with *Panamericana Big Band* (directed by Gary Morgan) since 2008.

In 2013-14 he produced and presented several events to commemorate the *Queens College Year of Brazil* including the opening concert by *Quarteto Moderno*, his *Brazilian Choral Project* for the *Queens College Vocal Ensemble* and lectures on different aspects of Brazilian music.

A heralded faculty member at New York City's internationally reknown **New School University College of Performing Arts / School of Jazz** since 1995 and former faculty at *Mannes College* and *William Paterson University*, he founded and directs the *Brazilian Jazz* and *Brazilian Choro Ensembles*. He also teaches Improvisation Ensembles, Ear Training, Guitar Sightreading, Jazz Vocal and Renaissance Choral Music. In 2010 he received the prestigious *New School University Distinguished Teaching Award*, and in 2011 was faculty representative at the *IASJ Convention* (International Association for Jazz Schools) in São Paulo, Brazil.

Boukas has produced, arranged and presented numerous landmark Brazilian music projects at **New School**:

*Sempre Jacob Centennial Tribute* (*Jacob do Bandolim*, 2017); *Viva Hermeto!* (celebrating **Hermeto Pascoal's** 80th birthday, 2016); *Pixinguinha and Contemporaries* (2014); *Ernesto Nazareth 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tribute* (2013); *música mineira project*, featuring legendary Minas Gerais composers (2012).

In fall 2015, he joined the professional faculty at *New York Jazz Workshop*, where he teaches classes, guest workshops and private lessons.

A four-time recipient of the *NEA Grant in Jazz Performance*, his many guest artist residencies include *Harvard*, *Cornell*, *Lamont School of Music/Denver*, *Cincinnati Conservatory*, *Univ. Louisville*, *Univ. Toronto*, *Univ. Arizona/Tucson* and *National Guitar Workshop*.

## **Richard Boukas Bio (continued)**

His first significant trip to Brazil was in 1998 as guest artist-professor at *Campos do Jordão Festival do Inverno* in São Paulo. He has returned frequently to perform with numerous Brazilian artists, present educational residencies and conduct scholarly research. In 2011 he and colleague *Cliff Korman* (former faculty at Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Belo Horizonte) were the key driving forces in developing a student exchange program between *UFMG* and *New School University School of Jazz*.

Richard holds an MA in Composition from *Queens College/Aaron Copland School of Music*, for which he presented his thesis on the music of *Hermeto Pascoal*. Aside from his diverse Brazilian jazz repertoire, he has composed numerous commissioned chamber music works for ensembles including *La Catrina String Quartet*, *PUBLIQuartet String Quartet*, World String Orchestra of Berklee College, *Modern Mandolin Quartet*, *Atlantic Brass Quintet*, *Lamont Saxophone Quartet*, *Morningside Chamber Ensemble* and *Panamericana Big Band*.

Boukas has also created numerous *Brazilian choral arrangements* based on the music of *Milton Nascimento*, *Sérgio Santos*, *Guinga*, *Radamés Gnattali* and *Ernesto Nazareth*. These pieces were premiered by the **Queens College Vocal Ensemble** and are generating the interest of major choirs in Brazil and beyond. He has also created over twenty *Beatles Motets* which have been performed by *Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble*. He has also composed an extensive body of solo Brazilian guitar music including the seven-movement *Guinga Suite*.

Apart from his own creative and academic work, he is a veteran Broadway and studio musician/producer, and an endorsing artist-consultant for *LaBella Strings* since 1980. He is also a composer and ensemble member (**Diálogos Duo**) of *Chamber Music America*.

### **Contact:**

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