

Diálogos Duo

contemporary Brazilian music

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Clarinet and guitar possess a rich and unique sonic affinity- yet very little contemporary music exists for this fertile instrumental tandem, let alone *Brazilian* works. *Diálogos Duo* was formed in fall of 2016 when *Louis Arques* and *Richard Boukas* met in New York City. Their musical chemistry was magnetic and immediate- both musicians recognizing the tremendous potential of this new collaboration. Hence “*diálogos*” which means “*dialogues*” in Portuguese.

The Duo’s primary mission is to create and present a diverse body of contemporary Brazilian music as a focal point for artistic, educational and cross-cultural exploration and enrichment. Representing a panorama of Brazilian styles, Boukas’s original works synergize traditional Brazilian genres with through-composed classical forms and jazz vocabularies. The Duo also offers alternative programs such as *Brazilian Songbook* and *Choro Classics*. These showcase the repertoire of popular music icons *Jobim*, *Milton Nascimento* and *Chico Buarque* to legendary instrumental composers including *Villa-Lobos*, *Gnattali*, *Hermeto Pascoal* and *Guinga*.

Arques’s uncanny natural virtuosity on clarinet and bass clarinet permits him to negotiate Brazilian music’s complex rhythms and melodies. Boukas’s sculpted guitar accompaniments create rich pianistic/orchestral textures imbued with a modern harmonic sophistication. His longtime penchant for duo playing is well documented in recordings and performances with Brazilian pianist *Jovino Santos Neto* and Croatian tambura virtuoso *Filip Novosel*.

Boukas’s prolific compositional output for the Duo includes four multi-movement suites: *Diálogos for Clarinet and Guitar*, *Diálogos for Bass Clarinet and Guitar*, *A Dozen Choro Tributes* and *Século*. The first two works will be featured on the Duo’s debut CD- *Homages to Brazilian Masters*, to be released later this fall. Their second CD will be *A Dozen Choro Tributes*, slated for fall 2019. The music from both releases will be the basis for performances and educational artist residencies. *Diálogos Duo* is an ensemble member of *Chamber Music America*.

LOUIS ARQUES (clarinet, bass clarinet) is a multifaceted woodwind virtuoso from Grenoble, France. 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 and ensemble musicians- including the *String Orchestra of Brooklyn* (SOB), *Mannes Orchestra* (Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall) and co-founded Brooklyn-based *NewOrch* with violinist Daniel Zinn.

Louis is a frequent New Music collaborator, including composer *Elizabeth Hoffman* and *Mannes American Composer Ensemble*. He also performs Afro-Cuban music with *Grupo Irek*, *Sonido Costeño*, *New School Afro-Cuban Orchestra* and with diverse jazz ensembles in club venues including *Birdland*. He performs early music on *Von Vittorelli’s* replicas of 18th Century instruments and is an artist endorser for *Vandoren* reeds and mouthpieces.

RICHARD BOUKAS (guitar, composer) is an internationally recognized guitarist, vocalist, composer, educator and scholar of Brazilian music. In addition to *Diálogos Duo*, he is leader of Brazilian jazz group *Quarteto Moderno*, (debut CD “Live! Ao Vivo!”), *Trio Brasileiro* and *Duo Brasileiro*. Apart from his multi-movement works for *Diálogos Duo*, he has composed chamber commissions for ensembles including *La Catrina String Quartet*, *PUBLIQuartet String Quartet*, *Berklee World String Orchestra*, *Atlantic Brass Quintet* and *Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble*. Other noted recordings as leader and co-leader include *Balaio* (with pianist *Jovino Santos Neto*), *Live at St. Michaels* (with *Filip Novosel*), *Amazôna*, *Embarcadero* and *Commitment*.

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Boukas is faculty at *New School for Performing Arts/School of Jazz* since 1989, where he is director of *Brazilian Choro* and *Brazilian Jazz* ensembles. In 2010, he received the *New School Distinguished University Teaching Award*. He has been guest artist-educator at numerous universities and festivals throughout the U.S. (*New York Guitar Seminar, Harvard, Cornell*), 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 endorser since 1980.

Audio, Video, Programs: www.boukas.com/dialogos-duo

Bookings, Scores, other inquiries: dialogosduo@boukas.com

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