

Richard Boukas

Bio

Internationally acclaimed contemporary guitarist, vocalist, composer, educator, author and journalist, he is recognized worldwide as a primary exponent and disseminator of **Brazilian music**. Leader of original music ensembles for more than forty years and presenting extensively as a solo artist-educator, solo venues include *B.B. King's Latin Guitar Festival* and guest master class at *New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes/New School University College of the Performing Arts*.

Since 2008, Boukas is composer-leader of Brazilian jazz ensemble **Quarteto Moderno**, showcasing his compositions across a panorama of authentic genres. Featuring saxophonist *Lucas Pino*, bassist *Gustavo Amarante* and drummer *Maurício Zottarelli*, ensemble performances include *Hudson Hall Jazz Festival*, *Lehman College/Johnny Pacheco Latin Jazz Festival*, *Branford Jazz Festival* (CT), *Queens College Year of Brazil* and repeat concerts at the *New Americans Program of New York Public Library*. In 2016, the ensemble released its *debut CD, Quarteto Moderno/Live! Ao Vivo!*

In 2016 he formed **Diálogos Duo** with French clarinetist/bass clarinetist *Louis Arques*, with whom he has recorded two CDs: *Homages to Brazilian Masters* (2018) and *Choro Tributes*, whose premiere performance was presented by the *New York City Classical Guitar Society*.

The Duo's **complete repertoire** composed by Boukas consists of **66 movements (7 suites)**, the largest body of contemporary Brazilian music composed for clarinet (bass clarinet) and guitar. In 2019, the Duo presented a featured concert at the annual **ClarinetFest** of the International Clarinet Association in Knoxville, TN.

Duo works are receiving international recognition by elite guitarists and clarinetists:

João Luiz of Brasil Guitar Duo: "I am certain that Boukas's present and future works will be a perennial contribution to contemporary clarinet-guitar literature." Italian clarinet virtuoso

Alessandro Carbonare: "His extensive knowledge of various Brazilian musical styles and great gift for composing now offers us a broader repertoire of tremendous value."

Dialogos Duo is also presenting numerous in-person and virtual **artist residencies** at universities, including **Mannes/New School for the Performing Arts**.

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** (MPB) and the rich solo Brazilian guitar tradition from *Garôto* to *Guinga*.

His prior **Duo collaborations** have been with 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 **Tudo de Bom**, featuring the landmark Hermeto Pascoal *Calendário do Som*. Richard is also featured vocalist-percussionist, composer-arranger with **Panamericana Big Band** (directed by Gary Morgan) since 2008.

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A heralded faculty member at New York City's *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 directed the **Brazilian Jazz** and **Brazilian Choro Ensembles**. He has produced, arranged and directed numerous special programs in Brazilian music, including tributes to *Pixinguinha, Jacob do Bandolim, Hermeto Pascoal, Ernesto Nazareth* and music of *Minas Gerais*.

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. In fall 2015, he joined the faculty at *New York Jazz Workshop*.

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*.

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.

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 *chamber music commissions* for ensembles including:

Sopros de PE (clarinet quartet, Recife, Brazil), *La Catrina String Quartet, PUBLIQuartet, 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*. 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 *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 (**Diálogos Duo**) member of **Chamber Music America**.

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