

Richard Boukas

Internationally acclaimed guitarist, vocalist, composer, educator, author and journalist, he has led contemporary music ensembles for over thirty-five years and performed as an itinerant solo artist. Boukas is recognized as one of this country's most important exponents and advocates for Brazilian music, and was chosen "*Best Brazilian Jazz Guitarist in the U.S.*" by *GuitarOne Magazine*. Among his recent solo appearances include *B.B. King's Latin Guitar Festival* and *Global Guitar Festival* at *Subrosa*. In July 2016, he was guest artist-educator at the prestigious guitar conference *New York Guitar Seminar* presented by *Mannes College at New School University*.

Since 2008 he is leader of *Quarteto Moderno* with stellar counterparts *Lucas Pino* (woodwinds), *Gustavo Amarante* (bass) and *Maurício Zottarelli* (drums). The ensemble's repertoire features Boukas's diverse Brazilian jazz compositions. Performances include *Hudson Hall Jazz Festival*, *Queens College Year of Brazil* and *Lehman College Latin Jazz Festival*. Their debut CD is *Quarteto Moderno Live! Ao Vivo!* He is also leader of *Trio Brasileiro* alongside Amarante and Zottarelli, which explores the music of Minas Gerais composers including *Milton Nascimento*, *Toninho Horta*, *Sérgio Santos*, the lineage of Brazilian guitar from *Garôto* to *Guínga*, and classics from the Brazilian Songbook (MPB). He is also vocalist-percussionist and composer-arranger with *Gary Morgan's Panamericana Big Band*.

Among his most important collaborations was his duo with pianist-composer *Jovino Santos Neto* (formerly of *Hermeto Pascoal Group*). Their recording *Balaio* presents their original compositions and those of Pascoal. In 2012 he formed a duo with Croatian tambura virtuoso *Filip Novosel*, exploring new connections in Brazilian, Balkan, jazz and contemporary classical music. In 2013 they released *Live at St. Michael's* CD/DVD. In fall 2016, he formed *Diálogos Brazilian Chamber Duo* with French clarinetist *Louis Arques*, composing two seven-movement works, *Diálogos for Clarinet and Guitar* and *Diálogos for Bass Clarinet and Guitar*. He has other duos with violoncellist *Wendy Law* (Brazilian chamber) and bassist *Jeff Fuller* (Brazilian Jazz). Other Boukas recordings as leader include *Tudo de Bom* (featuring Pascoal's *Calendário do Som*), *Amazôna*, *Embarcadero* and *Commitment*.

His first trip to Brazil was as guest artist-educator at the prestigious *Campos do Jordão Winter Festival* in São Paulo state. He has returned to Brazil frequently to collaborate with numerous Brazilian artists, present educational residencies and conduct archival and field research.

A mainstay faculty member at New York City's *New School Jazz & Contemporary Program* since 1995, *Mannes College* (1989-95) and *William Paterson University* (1985-93), he teaches in several course areas including *Brazilian Jazz Ensemble*, *Brazilian Choro Ensemble* (founded 1996 and 2008 respectively), *Improvisation*, *Ear Training*, *Guitar Sightreading*, *Jazz Vocal* and *Renaissance Choral Music*. In September 2010 he received the prestigious *New School Distinguished University Teaching Award*. In 2011-12 he facilitated the launch of *New School Jazz's* student exchange program with *Federal University of Minas Gerais* (UFMG). Recent major concert projects he produced at *New School Jazz* include *música mineira* (featuring music of legendary composers from Minas Gerais) and two *Brazilian Choro Ensemble* concerts: *Ernesto Nazareth 150 Year Celebration* the 2014 *Pixinguinha and Contemporaries* and in 2017, *Sempre Jacob*, marking the centennial of legendary Choro mandolinist *Jacob do Bandolim*.

In 2015, he joined the faculty of *New York Jazz Workshop*, which specializes in continuing education for adults. In July 2016, he conducted the master class *Brazilian Guitar Panorama* at the prestigious *New York Guitar Seminar* held at *Mannes College*. A four-time recipient of the *NEA Grant in Jazz Performance*, his guest artist residencies include *Harvard*, *Cornell*, *Lamont School of Music/Denver Univ.*, *Univ. of Toronto*, *Univ. Louisville*, *Univ. Arizona/Tucson*, *Cincinnati Conservatory*, and *National Guitar Workshop*.

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*. Besides his Brazilian jazz repertoire, he has composed numerous chamber works for ensembles including *La Catrina String Quartet*, *PUBLIQuartet String Quartet*, *Berklee World String Ensemble*, *Modern Mandolin Quartet* and *Lamont Saxophone Quartet*. He has composed an extensive body of solo Brazilian guitar music, including the seven-movement *Guínga Suite* dedicated to the Brazilian master composer-guitarist. He has created numerous a cappella choral works: cutting-edge adaptations of Brazilian popular classics and a collection of twenty *Beatles Motets*. Choral collaborations include *Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble* and *Queens College Vocal Ensemble*. He is a composer and ensemble (*Quarteto Moderno*) member of *Chamber Music America*. Apart from his own creative work, Richard has performed in Broadway pits for numerous shows including *In the Heights*, *Chicago*, *Lion King* and *Les Misérables* and *Crazy for You*. He is endorsing artist for *LaBella Strings* since 1980.