

## Richard Boukas

## Bio

Internationally acclaimed guitarist, vocalist, composer, educator and author, he is recognized as a primary exponent and advocate of **Brazilian music**. Leader of original music ensembles for forty-five years and an itinerant solo performer, composer and educator, solo venues include *B.B. King's Latin Guitar Festival*, *Jazz Forum*, masterclasses at *New York Guitar Seminar (Mannes)* and *Hudson Jazz Workshop Composer Series*.

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*, performances include *Hudson Hall Jazz Festival*, *Lehman College/Johnny Pacheco Latin Jazz Festival*, *Branford Jazz Festival (CT)*, *Queens College Year of Brazil* and the *New Americans Program* of *New York Public Library*. The ensemble's featured CD is *Quarteto Moderno/Live! Ao Vivo!*

In 2016 he formed *Diálogos Duo* with French clarinetist/bass clarinetist *Louis Arques*. The Duo has recorded two CDs: *Choro Tributes* (2020) and *Homages to Brazilian Masters* (2018).

The Duo's **complete repertoire** composed by Boukas is **100 movements (9 suites)**- the largest body of contemporary Brazilian music for clarinet (bass clarinet) and guitar worldwide. Each movement is a tribute to an illustrious Brazilian composer/musician. *Diálogos* has performed at **ClarinetFest** (*International Clarinet Association* annual convention **2021, 2019**), *American Public Media*, *Sacred Heart University (CT)*, *New School College of Performing Arts* and conducts **university residencies** using their repertoire as primary curriculum.

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

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

*Alessandro Carbonare* (Grammy-winning Italian clarinetist): "His extensive knowledge of various Brazilian musical styles and great gift for composing now offers us a broader repertoire of tremendous value."

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*.

Richard's prior **Duo collaborations** feature pianist-composer **Jovino Santos Neto** (formerly of *Hermeto Pascoal Group* (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*, and produced/arranged *Tudo de Bom*, featuring Hermeto Pascoal's *Calendário do Som*. He is also featured vocalist-percussionist, composer-arranger with **Panamericana Big Band** (directed by Gary Morgan) since 2008.

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**- producing, arranging and directing landmark programs including tributes to *Jacob do Bandolim*, *Pixinguinha*, *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, Brazil. 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 and masterclasses include *Harvard*, *Cornell*, *New York Guitar Seminar*, *National Guitar Workshop*, *Lamont School of Music/Denver*, *Hudson Jazz Workshop (NY)*, *New York City Classical Guitar Society*, *Cincinnati Conservatory*, *Univ. Louisville*, *Univ. Arizona/Tucson* and *Univ. Toronto*.

His first extended stay in Brazil was 1998 as guest artist-professor at **Campos do Jordão Festival do Inverno** (São Paulo state). More recent educational activities include: *Federal Univ. Minas Gerais (UFMG, Belo Horizonte)*, *Federal Institute of Pernambuco (Recife)* and panelist-presenter at *Congresso música criativa /Savassi Festival (UniRio, Rio de Janeiro)*.

A prolific composer, 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 and *Diálogos Duo* repertoire, he has fulfilled 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*, *Queens College Vocal Ensemble* and *Panamericana Big Band*.

Boukas has also created **numerous Brazilian choral arrangements** featuring the music of *Milton Nascimento*, *Sérgio Santos*, *Guinga*, *Radamés Gnattali* and *Ernesto Nazareth*, twenty *Beatles Motets* (performed by *Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble*) and composed an extensive body of solo Brazilian guitar music including *Guinga Suite*.

Apart from his own creative and academic work, Richard is a veteran Broadway and studio musician/producer and endorsing artist with **LaBella Strings** since 1978. He is also a composer and ensemble member (*Diálogos Duo*) of **Chamber Music America**.

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