Brazilian Contemporary Music

Louis Arques – *clarinet, bass clarinet*
Richard Boukas – *guitar, composer*

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Founded in 2016, *Diálogos Duo* is the preeminent U.S. clarinet-guitar duo specializing in contemporary Brazilian music. Their artistic and educational mission is to perform and teach from a panorama of contemporary Brazilian music– the largest body of original clarinet and guitar repertoire worldwide. "*Diálogos*" means "*Dialogues*" in Portuguese.

Louis Arques is a virtuoso who conquers Brazilian music's complex melodies and syncopated rhythms. **Richard Boukas** provides rich guitar accompaniments that capture the authentic essence of each genre, including: *samba, choro, bossa nova, baião, frevo, marcha, maracatu* and *valsa*. Each movement is a compelling tribute to a legendary Brazilian composer/musician.

Boukas's Diálogos works fuse traditional Brazilian genres with contemporary jazz and classical vocabularies– nine suites, 100 movements: *Sarau para o Pixinguinha- 125 Anos (2022), Sambistas Imortais* (2021), *Cantos do Nordeste (2020), A Dozen Choro Tributes* (2019), featured on their second CD, *Choro Tributes* (2020); *Three Choros for Bass Clarinet and Guitar* (2020), *Impressões de Minas* (2019), *Centenário* (2018); *Diálogos for Clarinet and Guitar, Diálogos for Bass Clarinet and Guitar* (2018), both featured on their debut CD, *Homages to Brazilian Masters*.

Diálogos repertoire is receiving ever greater visibility worldwide. *João Luiz (Brasil Guitar Duo)*: "Arques and Boukas possess a unique connection and complete command of their cutting-edge repertoire. Their present and future works and performances will be a perennial contribution to contemporary clarinet-guitar literature and pedagogy." Italian clarinetist and Grammy winner *Alessandro Carbonare*: "Boukas' extensive knowledge of Brazilian styles and great gift for composing offers us a broad repertoire of tremendous value."

Recent performances and national broadcasts include *Performance Today (American Public Radio), NYC Classical Guitar Society, ClarinetFest (Int'l Clarinet Association*), *Jazz Forum, Sacred Heart University "Art of the Duo" (Fairfield, CT), WKCR-FM Jobim Marathon (Columbia University, NYC)* and *UTTV Univ. TN/Knoxville*. The Duo presents university residencies worldwide (onsite, virtual and hybrid), using their original repertoire for Brazilian music performance practice, composition, theory, ear training and other disciplines.

About the artists

LOUIS ARQUES is a woodwind virtuoso from Grenoble, France. A *Vandoren* artist, he taught in French music schools for ten years including the *Paris Conservatoire* before moving to New York City in 2016. He is an itinerant chamber and orchestral soloist for New Music (*String Orchestra of Brooklyn, Mannes Orchestra, NewOrch),* jazz works (*Wynton Marsalis,* Cornell University) and Afro-Cuban music *(Grupo Irek, Sonido Costeño)*. He is founder and artistic director of *Avalanche Orchestra* and the not-for-profit organization *Avalanche Arts*.

Earning his Master's degree and Artist Diploma *from Mannes/New School College of Performing Arts,* he is faculty at *Diller-Quaile School of Music* and was guest clarinet faculty at *Ithaca College School of Music*. Aside from his work in contemporary and Brazilian music, he performs early music repertoire on *Von Vittorelli's* replicas of eighteenth-century instruments.

RICHARD BOUKAS is an internationally recognized guitarist, vocalist, composer, educator and scholar of Brazilian music. In addition to *Diálogos Duo,* he is leader of Brazilian jazz groups *Quarteto Moderno, Trio Brasileiro, Duo Brasileiro* and performs frequently as a soloist. Apart from his prolific works for *Diálogos Duo,* he has composed commissions for *PUBLIQuartet, La Catrina String Quartet, Sopros de Pernambuco* clarinet quartet (Brazil), Berklee *World String Orchestra, Atlantic Brass Quintet* and *Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble*. Recordings as leader are *Quarteto Moderno Live! Ao Vivo!, Balaio* (with Brazilian pianist *Jovino Santos Neto), Live at St. Michaels* (with tamburist *Filip Novosel*, Croatia), *Amazôna, Embarcadero* and *Commitment*.

Faculty at *New School for Performing Arts/School of Jazz* since 1989, he founded the *Brazilian Choro* and *Brazilian Jazz* ensembles and is a recipient of the *Distinguished University Teaching Award*. He has been guest artist-educator at universities and festivals throughout the U.S.: *New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes, Harvard, Denver Univ., Cincinnati Conservatory, Hudson Jazz Workshop*; in Brazil: *Campos do Jordão, São Paulo, IFPE/Recife, UFMG/Belo Horizonte and UniRio/Savassi Creative Music Congress;* in Canada: *York College, Univ. Toronto*. He is a *La Bella Strings* artist endorsee since 1978.

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