

MetLife Foundation
Music of the Americas
Concert Series

BRASIL GUITAR DUO
CD RELEASE - LEO BROUWER



February 19, 2016
7:00 PM

Americas Society
680 Park Avenue
New York

Americas / SOCIETY

Dear friends,

The Brasil Guitar Duo first appeared at Music of the Americas almost a decade ago, fresh from their success at the Concert Artists Guild International Competition. Since then, they have continued to develop as an ensemble, expanding their horizons to adventurous commissioning and recording projects. We are delighted to join them in the release of their latest CD, dedicated to Leo Brouwer. As it happens, I am in Havana with Brouwer, who couldn't be in New York this evening but sends his best wishes for the performance. I am also grateful to my friend Terrance McKnight for hosting this concert in my stead.

Thank you for joining us.

Sebastian Zubieta, Music Director

The MetLife Foundation Music of the Americas concert series is made possible by the generous support of **Presenting Sponsor MetLife Foundation.**

MetLife Foundation

The Winter 2016 Music program is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by The Amphion Foundation, Inc.



Additional support for this program is provided by Cuba Travel Network.



This performance is part of Composers Now Festival.



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BRASIL GUITAR DUO

PROGRAM

- Jean-Philippe Rameau** “Les cyclopes” from *Pièces de clavecin*
(arr. João Luiz)
- Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco** Prelude and Fugue no. 7, op. 119
from the *Well-Tempered Guitars*
- Egberto Gismonti** Selections (arr. João Luiz)

INTERMISSION

- Astor Piazzolla** “Zita” from *Suite Troileana*
- Leo Brouwer** *Sonata de los Viajeros*
Primer viaje a Tierras heladas
La Venus de Praxiteles
Visita a Bach en Leipzig
Por el mar de las Antillas
- Marco Pereira** *Bate-Coxa*

BRASIL GUITAR DUO

João Luiz and Douglas Lora guitars

Terrance McKnight, host

About the program

Jean Philippe Rameau (1683-1764), “Les cyclopes” (*Pièces de clavecin*, 1724)



Little is known about Rameau’s early years, and it was not until the 1720s that he won fame as a major theorist of music with the publication of his *Treatise on Harmony* (1722). He later became known for his harpsichord works, which circulated throughout Europe. He was almost 50 before he embarked on the operatic career on which his reputation chiefly rests today. His debut, *Hippolyte et Aricie* (1733), caused a great stir and was fiercely attacked for its revolutionary use of harmony. His reputation in the field of French opera was soon acknowledged, though he was later persecuted as an “establishment” composer by those who favoured Italian opera.

Rameau’s music had gone out of fashion by the end of the 18th century, and it was not until the 20th that serious efforts were made to

revive it. Today, he enjoys renewed appreciation with performances and recordings of his music ever more frequent.

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco (1895-1968) , Prelude and Fugue no. 7, op. 119



Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco’s *Les Guitares bien tempérées*, Op. 199, for two guitars (1962) is a set in four volumes, and its title is a take-off on J.S. Bach’s seminal work *The Well-Tempered Clavier*. The score remained unpublished until several years after his death in 1968, and has since earned favor with the world’s concert guitarists. Castelnuovo-Tedesco moves up around the circle of fifths, alternating between the major and minor modes, and the two guitars act as the two hands of a keyboardist.

Egberto Gismonti (b. 1947), Selections (arr. João Luiz)



Egberto Gismonti is world-renowned as a multi-instrumentalist and composer. He was profoundly influenced by Brazilian master Heitor Villa-Lobos, his works reflecting the musical diversity of Brazil. From the Amazon Indians' *batuque* to the Carioca *samba* and *choro*, through the

Northeastern *frevo*, *baião*, and *forró*, Gismonti captures the true essence of the Brazilian soul in a way that is primitive, yet sophisticated, and reflects it through his personal vision, elaborated by years of classic training and literacy in a wealth of musical languages in which jazz plays a significant role. Music of the Americas was honored to present Gismonti in a rare solo appearance in the fall of 2014 at Symphony Space in New York.

Ástor Piazzolla (1921-1992), “Zita” from *Suite Troileana* (1975)



The greatest master of the modern tango was Ástor Piazzolla, born in Mar del Plata and raised in New York City, where he lived with his father until the age of 16. His musical talents were discovered early by tango legend and Argentine cultural hero Carlos Gardel; at Gardel's urging, the young Ástor moved to Buenos Aires and joined the popular tango orchestra of Anibal Troilo as arranger and bandoneonist. Piazzolla studied classical composition with Ginastera in Buenos Aires, and in 1954 wrote a symphony for the Buenos Aires Philharmonic that earned him a scholarship to study in Paris with Nadia Boulanger. In 1956, he founded his own ensemble and began work on a modern tango

style that combined elements of traditional tango, Argentinean folk music, and contemporary classical, jazz, and popular techniques into a “nuevo tango” that was as suitable for the concert hall as for the dance floor. In 1974, Piazzolla returned to Paris, winning enthusiasts for both his *tango nuevo* and for the traditional tango. By the time he returned to Buenos Aires in 1985, he was regarded as the musician who had revitalized one of the quintessential genres of Latin music. Piazzolla continued to tour widely, record frequently, and compose incessantly until he suffered a stroke in 1990. *Suite Troileana* was written in 1975 in memory of bandoneonist, composer, and bandleader Aníbal Troilo, Piazzolla's mentor. The sultry “Zita” was composed in honor of Troilo's wife.

Leo Brouwer (b. 1939), *Sonata de los Viajeros* (2009)



Composer, guitarist and music director, Leo Brouwer was born in Havana and studied composition with Isaac Nicola at the Julliard School of Music and at Hartt College of Music. Brouwer has conducted orchestras around the world including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Scottish National Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra and Mexico's National Symphony Orchestra. His discography comprises over a hundred recordings by such artists as John Williams, Julian Bream, Franz Bruggen and Harry Sparnay as well as The Toronto Festival, the London Sinfonietta and the Liège festival. He has served as General Manager of the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra for ten years and since

1992 conducted the Córdoba Orchestra in Spain. *Sonata de Los Viajeros* (Sonata of the Travelers) represents an international voyage in four movements. The first journey is to the high Andes: slow and frigid, with chilling harmonics; the second movement travels to the statue of Venus by Praxiteles of Athens, believed to be one of the first life-sized representations of the nude female body. The next movement visits Bach in Leipzig, and the final movement, the Caribbean Sea, takes us back to Brouwer's homeland for a rhythmic and virtuosic finale which celebrates the music of Cuba.

Marco Pereira (b. 1950), *Bate-Coxa*



Brazilian guitarist Marco Pereira began his studies with Isaías Savio and obtained his master's degree at the Sorbonne (thesis on Villa-Lobos' guitar works). He has taught Harmony, Arranging, Composition and Improvisation at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). Marco has released several solo albums, including *Dança dos Quatro Ventos* (GHA Belgium); *Elegia* (Channel Classics - Netherlands); *Brasil Musical* (Tom Brasil - Brazil). His pedagogical writings include *Ritmos Brasileiros*, *Cadernos de Harmonia*, and

Brazilian Seven-Stringed Guitar - technique and style.

About the artists

Brasil Guitar Duo, winner of the 2006 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, and hailed by *Classical Guitar* magazine for its “maturity of musicianship and technical virtuosity,” is equally at home on a classical or a world-music series. The Duo’s innovative programming features a seamless blend of traditional and Brazilian works, resulting in a full global touring schedule and a growing catalogue of critically acclaimed recordings. They have appeared internationally on major concert series and at festivals in Cuba, Germany, England, South Korea, Colombia, Brazil, Austria, Panama, Poland, and Bermuda. Committed to performing new chamber music employing the guitar, the duo joined cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Carlos Prieto in the October 2014 world premiere of *El arco y la lira*, a work for two cellos and two guitars by Cuban composer and guitarist Leo Brouwer. On the same program—a highlight of the sixth annual Festival Leo Brouwer in Havana—the Duo gave the Cuban premiere of Brouwer’s *Sonata de Los Viajeros*. The Duo’s first CD, in 2007, was *Bom Partido*, a CAG Records release featuring all Brazilian repertoire. Two critically acclaimed Naxos CDs, released in 2008 and 2009, contain the complete works for two guitars by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. The Duo’s latest CD, also on the Naxos label, showcases the complete works for two guitars by Leo Brouwer. Duo members João Luiz and Douglas Lora met in São Paulo as teenage guitar students and have been performing together for more than fifteen years.

About the host



Terrance McKnight is the weekday evening host on WQXR, where he also hosted the Saturday evening program, *All Ears with Terrance McKnight*, a show about musical discovery, which was honored with an ASCAP Deems Taylor Radio Broadcast Award in 2010. McKnight’s musical experiences — from glee club soloist and accomplished pianist, to professor at Morehouse College, and finally as producer and host of several music programs for public radio — have consistently juxtaposed the European Classical tradition with

American classic traditions, such as jazz, gospel, African American spirituals and other musical genres McKnight has hosted and produced several specials for WQXR including “I, Too, Sing America: Music in the Life of Langston Hughes”; “A Musical Journey in the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.”; “A Musical Biography of Pioneering Pianist Hazel Scott” and “A Musical Biography of Florence Beatrice Price.” Other activities for McKnight include appearances as a panelist or speaker with Chamber Music America, the Mellon Foundation, American Opera Projects and the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s concert and lecture series.

Brasil Guitar Duo: Recent Discography

Leo Brouwer: *Music for Two Guitars*



With a prolific output ranging from solo guitar pieces to symphonic works, including concertos, chamber music, and many film scores, **Leo Brouwer** is recognised as one of the world's most innovative and internationally performed contemporary composers. In this recording his progressive and imaginative contribution to extending the horizons of the guitar duo is fully demonstrated. Subtle allusions to dance styles, virtuosity, and rhythms referencing Cuban folk music are

some of the features of these exciting pieces which range from the special sonorities of *Per suonare a due* to the *Sonata de Los Viajeros*, an international voyage in four movements.

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco: *Music for Two Guitars, vol. 1 and 2*



With a catalogue of more than 200 works with opus numbers, and many others without, few composers have written such a wide variety of immediately appealing music, as rewarding for performers and listeners alike, as **Castelnuovo-Tedesco**. His *Sonatina Canonica*, Op. 196 is a staple for many guitar duos, its warm tonal language enlivened by ingenious counterpoint. Fired by profound admiration for the music of J. S. Bach, his *Les Guitares Bien Tempérées*, Op. 199 comprises 24

preludes and fugues in all major and minor keys, the first dozen of which are performed here by the award-winning young Brasil Guitar Duo.



The Brasil Guitar Duo's Naxos recording of the first twelve Preludes and Fugues from *The Well-Tempered Guitars* gained 5 stars and high praise from *Audiophile Audition*: 'Sonics are first rate, and the interplay of the two guitars is a delight'. A landmark in the guitar's history and the most ambitious undertaking for two guitars ever conceived, Castelnuovo-Tedesco's tribute to J.S. Bach is equally a demonstration of his own melodic inventiveness, wit, vivacity, introspection and lyricism. The *Elegiac Fugue*, composed shortly before

his death, is a fitting musical epitaph.

MetLife Foundation Music of the Americas Concert Series

About the concert series

Since 1965, the **Music of the Americas Concert Series** has presented musical luminaries such as Plácido Domingo, Antonio Meneses, Mercedes Sosa, Hermeto Pascoal, Continuum Ensemble, Bobby Sanabria, Inti-Illimani, Cuarteto Latinoamericano, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Tanya Tagaq, and many others.

MetLife Foundation Music of the Americas concerts take place at Americas Society's headquarters and partnering organizations across New York City. The concert series brings together an ever-expanding urban audience with consistently high-caliber musicians from across the hemisphere, showcasing oft-underrepresented music and rendering it immediate and accessible.



Magos Herrera & Javier Limón: Valentine. Image by Roey Yohai.

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Music of the Americas

Concert Series

SPRING 2016

- Thursday, January 28 7 pm Venezuelan pianist Vanessa Perez
Spain CD launch (Steinway)
- Thursday, February 11 7 pm Magos Herrera & Javier Limón
Valentine
- Friday, February 19 7 pm Brasil Guitar Duo
Cuban composer Leo Brouwer CD launch (Naxos)
- February 20-February 21 Meridionalis in Havana
Early music from Latin America
- Tuesday, February 23 7 pm Momenta Quartet
Mexican microtonalist Julián Carrillo
- Tuesday, March 15 7 pm *La calle de los pianistas*
Documentary film screening
- Wednesday, March 16 7 pm Karin Lechner and Natasha Binder
Piano duo concert
- Monday, March 28 7 pm Modernismo Rumbero
1920s Latin American music heard in New York
- Monday, April 4 7 pm Alberto Ginastera & His Contemporaries
Attacca Quartet
- Thursday, April 14 7 pm ensemble mise-en
Portrait of Claude Vivier
- Friday, April 22 7 pm Suzie LeBlanc & Alexander Weimann
As you like it: Early arias inspired by Shakespeare
- Saturday, April 30 7 pm Orfeón San Juan Bautista
@ Hispanic Society of America
- Saturday, May 7 7 pm Brazilian composer Felipe Lara
Meditations and Calligraphy
- Monday, May 9 7 pm New York New Music Ensemble
Canto: Music from South America
- Thursday, May 19 7 pm *Inteligencia Artificial*: existential monodrama
@ Dixon Place, in collaboration with CETC

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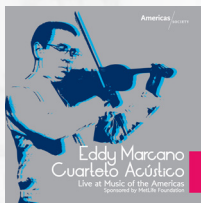
Benefits include:

Supporting Members:

- Free access to Literature, Music, and Visual Arts programs and meet-the-artist receptions.
- Invitations to members-only events.
- Free Music of the Americas CD.

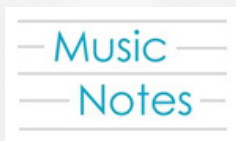
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- Member rate admission to public policy programs (for the member).
- Bring 1 guest free of charge to Literature, Music, and Visual Arts programs and meet-the-artist receptions.
- Bring one or more guests free of charge to members-only and VIP culture events.



Eddy Marcano Cuarteto Acústico & Musica Ficta

Music of the Americas now has two CDs available for purchase! The first, recorded live at Americas Society in 2009 and produced by Americas Society's own Sebastián Zubieta, features Eddy Marcano Cuarteto Acústico and is available for download on iTunes, Amazon, and other stores. The second, recorded at Hispanic Society of America in 2014, features the Spanish vocal ensemble Musica Ficta in a program of early Latin American music with harpist Manuel Vilas, conducted by Raúl Mallavibarrena.



Music Notes is a continuing series of online articles that looks at recent concerts in the Music of the Americas Series. Available at the Americas Society website, the articles showcase videos, photos, and audio from the concerts, and discuss issues and ideas brought up by the artists and the music.

Americas Society is the premier forum dedicated to education, debate and dialogue in the Americas. Its mission is to foster an understanding of the contemporary political, social and economic issues confronting Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada, and to increase public awareness and appreciation of the diverse cultural heritage of the Americas and the importance of the inter-American relationship.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

February 20-21 **Meridionalis in Havana**
Early music from Latin America

Tuesday, February 23 **Momenta Quartet**
7 pm Mexican microtonalist Julián Carrillo

Tuesday, March 15 *La calle de los pianistas*
7 PM Film screening with Cinema Tropical

Visit our website www.as-coa.org/music
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