



Marco Pereira

(guitarist, composer, arranger)

Marco Pereira was born in Sao Paulo and got classical guitar lessons with the uruguayan master Isaias Sávio and music theory lessons at the Music and Drama Conservatory of São Paulo.

He lived in France for five years and received a classical guitar master's degree in performance from the Université Musicale Internationale of Paris, and a master's degree in Musicology from the University of Paris-Sorbonne with his thesis Heitor Villa-Lobos and his guitar work (Editora Musimed - Brasília - Brasil).

In Paris, he was strongly influenced by jazz and Latin-American music which characterizes his compositional work, added to Brazilian styles. He performed with great success at 9^{ème} Festival de Jazz de Paris that allowed him to perform in Germany, France, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Austria, Canada and the United States. In Spain, he won two awards in important international guitar competitions: Concurso Andrés Segóvia (Palma de Mallorca) and Concurso Francisco Tárrega (Valencia).

On his return to Brazil, Marco settled in Brasilia after he was invited by UnB (University of Brasilia) to establish the courses of Classical Guitar and Functional Harmony. He recorded his first two albums for Som da Gente (**Violão Popular Brasileiro Contemporaneo** - 1985 - and **Circulo das Cordas** - 1987). These two records allowed him to perform in The Town Hall of New York, in 1988. In 1989 he moved to Rio de Janeiro and took part in the Free Jazz Festival in four instances: in a memorable performance with Trio D'Alma in 1989; with his own work in 1991; with Wagner Tiso in 1992, and with Edu Lobo in 1996. He recorded with many prominent artists in the Brazilian musical scenario, such as, Gal Costa, Tom Jobim, Edu Lobo, Gilberto Gil, Wagner Tiso, Daniela Mercury, Zizi Possi, Zélia Duncan, Cassia Eller, Rildo Hora, Paulinho da Viola, Milton Nascimento, Leila Pinheiro, Fátima Guedes, Nelson Goncalves and Roberto Carlos amongst others.

Marco Pereira received the important Sharp Award in two different editions: as **Best Arranger** (1993) for Gal Costa's album and as **Best Soloist** and **Best Album of the Year** (1994) for **Bons Encontros** with the pianist Cristovão Bastos. Currently, he a professor in the Composition Department at the Federal

University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). His compositions were issued by the publisher Éditions Lemoine - Paris, France - and GSP (Guitar Solo Publications) - San Francisco, CA, USA - and have been played and recorded by important guitarists all around the world.

In 1995, Marco released three albums: **Dança dos Quatro Ventos** for the Belgian label GHA; **Elegia** for Channel Classics of The Netherlands; and **Brasil Musical** for the Brazilian label Tom Brasil. In 1999, Marco released his solo album **Valsas Brasileiras** with an exquisite repertoire of the modern Brazilian popular waltzes. In 2001 he released the album **Luz das Cordas** recorded with the mandolin player Hamilton de Holanda. In 2004 he recorded two different albums: **Original** - GSP (Guitar Solo Publications - San Francisco, CA - www.gspguitar.com) with his own compositions for solo guitar, and **O samba da minha terra** - Independent - with new arrangements and compositions for guitar, bass, drums and percussion. In 2006 he did an album with harmonica: **Afinidade**; in 2007 he released his album with orchestra: **Camerístico**; still in 2007 he released his book+CD **Ritmos Brasileiros** (Brazilian Rhythms). He also has two CDs in Europe: **Stella del Matino** (EGEA - Perugia - Italy) and **Essence** (Kind of Blue - Lugano - Switzerland).

Currently, he teaches Harmony at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). His compositions and books are edited by Éditions Lemoine (Paris, France), GSP - Guitar Solo Publications (San Francisco, CA, USA) Editora Musimed (Brasília - Brazil) and Editora Garbolights (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). and have been played and recorded by important guitarists all around the world.

In 2010 his new solo guitar album **Cristal** was released. In 2011 he published two different guitar methods: **'Sete Cordas, técnica e estilo'** (*dedicated to Brazilian 7 strings guitar style*) and **'Cadernos de Harmonia'** (*a Harmony method for guitar in 3 volumes*). In 2016 he recorded his album **'Camerístico'**. In 2017 an album dedicated to Dilermando Reis, **'Dois Destinos'** and in 2018 an album in duo with Paulo Bellinati, **'Xodós'**.

Among his works for guitar and orchestra are: **"Lendas Amazônicas, for two guitars and orchestra"**, **"Concerto Calunga, for guitar and orchestra"**, **"Círculo dos Amantes, for guitar and orchestra"**, **"Serenata, for guitar and strings"** and **"Brincantes"**, also for guitar and strings

"Marco's impeccable technique and feel bring each composition alive, Having only performed these works with a rhythm section, this recording of solo renditions of these works has imparted an incredibly powerful feel and groove to each of the many styles of Brazilian music found on this disc, including: street samba, baião (utilizing slap bass techniques), maracatu and frevo, a dream-like version of seresta, the forró and, of course, the choro. Of special

note is the sound quality of the recording achieved by the engineer, Dean Kamei, founder and head honcho at Guitar Solo Publications, their relationship having begun over a decade ago with this disc acting as their first attempt at capturing the diverse and vital sounds of Brazil. The guitar sound is warm and inviting, giving this North American guitarist a sense (and longing) of the exotic and vital musical world that is encompassed in the land of Carnival.” – **John Martin, Guitart Magazine**

“...a startling clean technique combined with a 'looseness' rarely found outside jazz and funk circles. If you think the Assad Brothers are amazing then Marco Pereira will most likely make you go 'ooh' just like when you first heard the synchronized conflagrations of the world's number one duo. Another GSP triumph; highly recommended.” – **Tim Panting, Classical Guitar Magazine**

“Some players make you smile when you hear them play because you know inside they bring forth a rare gift through their interpretations, arrangements, and compositions that others may never find – a certain poetry exists. Mr. Pereira will keep you smiling throughout the 44 minutes included on his recent recording for GSP Records. Pereira composes music that sounds incredibly improvisationary at times but always the work of a stunning virtuoso talent. Marco's music contains captivating melodic material with rhythmic variety allowing the listener to bask in the glorious sounds that flow naturally from his nylon-string guitar. I can't imagine my collection without this CD!” – **Fred Gillett, Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine**

“Marco Pereira's first recording of entirely self-penned solo pieces is a revelation, the kind of album that makes you reconsider the stifling expectations sometimes associated with the "classical" guitar, perhaps the most glorious of all six-strings. Rooted in such a strong cultural tradition, the tunes sometimes sound familiar, yet Pereira avoids the cliches that players often fall back on. ...the harmonic depth and rhythmic grooves of such pieces as 'Tio Boros' and 'Bate-coxa' will have fellow guitarists shaking their heads in amazement.” – **Teja Gerken, Acoustic Guitar Magazine**

“...a collection of lively and moving celebrations which vicariously afford a peek into several windows of Brazilian mood. ...Pereira breathes life into these pieces, magically animating musical notes rendered on solo guitar into flamboyant Rio street scenes. Pereira plays with the lightning-fast precision of a studied classical player, but exhorts his own unique voice with some striking stylistic nuances. I can tell you that Marco Pereira's 'Original' is fantastic.” – **Alan Fark, Minor 7th**

“This recording not only was musically exhilarating, it also provided a virtual cultural tour of Brazil, all courtesy of Marco

Pereira, who took care of all the technical details to leave the listener to just enjoy and dream away. This CD deserves kudos not only for the wonderful music but also for the masterful programming of the pieces." – **Raul Jose, Guitarreando Newsletter/ACGS**