

# SOUL BRASIL

Jan 25 / Feb 2015 – Year 12 – Issue 71

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## Music & Dance Issue



Free Issue

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A Story of Dreams  
and Achievements

### A LOOK INSIDE IPANEMA

The Glamour  
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# Editor's Note

Brazil has always had a rich variety of instruments, talented musicians, and strong African, European and Native Indians influences. Brazil is the country that has the world's richest musical culture, and since the 40's has influenced culture worldwide. It's a country where talent and creativity is abundant among its people. It is a nation that has the music and what it involves as important ambassadors. The Brazilian music is represented by extraordinary artists such as Tom Jobim, Vinicius de Moraes, Carmen Miranda, Pixinguinha, Ary Barroso, Noel Rosa, Elis Regina, Cazuza, Tim Maia, Oscar Castro Neves, Sergio Mendes, Milton Nascimento, Caetano Velozo Gilberto Gil, and so many more. Phenomenal artists that have given their best for better promote and propagate the Brazil's main product: Music.

In this Music & Dance issue we illustrate a few names of our big community of local Brazilian musicians that in way or another have been helping to spread

this music in the U.S and in particular, in Southern California. We bring an interesting article by our long time contributor Julia Melim regarding the hottest Rio spot, Ipanema. Read an inspirational story of courage and self-improvement as the one of Vania Marques "Samba", and much more. For last, I would like to say that we start 2015 with new plans and some of them will be implemented these next couple months. Starting February, you will be able to read the same and exactly print issue in a Flip/eBook format – the link will be available in the main page of our website [www.soulbrasil.com](http://www.soulbrasil.com) and in our official Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/soulbrasil](http://www.facebook.com/soulbrasil). And by the second or third week of February you will be able to check the content of Soul Brasil magazine on the Apple Store and Google Play.

Health and peace,  
Lindenberg Junior



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# O Teste do Celular

Lindenberg Junior

Se hoje você sair por aí, seja no Brasil ou aqui nos EUA e andar pelas ruas, pode reparar como as pessoas estão se interagindo umas com as outras. Entre em restaurantes, visite praças e parques, shoppings e bares, e comprove: poucos são os que estão conversando olho no olho ou, pior, raros são os que estão se comunicando por meio da fala. O motivo? Os dedos passaram a ser os grandes comunicadores e, ainda que namorado, irmã, pai ou um grande amigo esteja ao lado, eles se tornaram seres “invisíveis” para quem tem à mão os atraentes “smartphones”. Bem, esse tema que inclui a tecnologia e as facilidades do mundo de hoje, incluindo a comunicação, tem um lado triste ou negativo, porém também tem o lado positivo. Abaixo segue dois comentários de músicos reconhecidos internacionalmente.

*“É um tanto quanto aterrorizador, às vezes” – Katy Perry, cantora e compositora americana, ao falar do Twitter na Rádio Kiss FM (EUA); recentemente, ela se tornou a primeira celebridade a reunir 50 milhões de seguidores no microblog.*

*“Eu acho fascinante que a música agora vá até as pessoas, e não o contrário, como quando*

*frequentávamos lojas de discos” – Ricky Martin, cantor porto-riquenho, que iniciou sua carreira com o outrora grupo Menudo.*

*E já que o tema é música, incluímos um recente comentário do Martinho da Vila em relação aos novos sambas e compositores/músicos que estão aparecendo com uma maior facilidade para as grandes massas, em parte, graças a essas novas tecnologias. “Dessas músicas (sambas) que estão por aí (tocando em rádios) eu faço umas dez todo dia” – Martinho da Vila em entrevista ao Jornal Estado de São Paulo.*

*Em uma pesquisa com a população adulta jovem do Reino Unido, e feita pela empresa de seguros de celular Mobile Insurance, se revelou que a maioria dos entrevistados prefere viver uma semana sem sexo do que sem o celular. Foram entrevistados 2.570 pessoas entre 18 e 30 anos, e quando questionados sobre como se sentiam em relação aos seus aparelhos, 65% disseram que “não poderiam viver sem”, 22% se consideraram “muito dependentes” e 10% sentiam que poderiam “pegar ou largar” o telefone.*

*Gostaria de mencionar um fato interessante que aconteceu em 2013 em Belo Horizonte. Diante da realidade dos smartphones nas mesas de bar, e até mesmo nos barzinhos que ofereciam música ao vivo, uma campanha publicitária adotou o mote “Buteco, a Verdadeira Rede Social”, durante o festival “Comida di Buteco 2013”. A intenção da campanha foi estimular os “butequeiros” e “pagodeiros” a curtir o momento, dando uma trégua a seus respectivos aparelhos.*

*A conclusão é que as novas tecnologias nos ajudam bastante em vários setores do nosso dia a dia, mas tem havido uma falta de etiqueta, no geral, das pessoas. Elas estão se permitindo se isolar. Devemos acreditar que não seja algo irreversível, mas uma postura que será reajustada para a medida do uso saudável, que é ter a consciência de si mesmo. O que você precisa no momento? Mais contato social ou virtual? Temos vários bons eventos pela frente nos meses de Fevereiro e Março, que tal fazer um teste e deixar o seu celular em casa quando for ao próximo carnaval em L.A, San Diego, Santa Barbara... (acho que não vou convencê-lo).*





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## APPLE WINS ITUNES ANTITRUST LAWSUIT



Apple has emerged victorious in a decade-long lawsuit over its iTunes software. A federal jury took three hours in December to reject and antitrust suit that accused Apple of trying to monopolize the digital music market

beginning in 2006 by preventing songs downloaded from other music stores from working on the iPod. The plaintiffs, who sought \$350 million in damages, claimed Apple issued software updated blocking songs from rival music stores in order to sell more iPods and expand the dominance of iTunes, Apple argued that the update was designed only to improve security against hacks, a key demand of record labels.

## IS THE PIRATE BAY GONE FOR GOOD?

"Authorities may have finally sunk the Pirate Bay, said Kim Zetter in Wired.com in the last week of December 2014. The comments was just a few days After the World's most popular and largest illegal file-sharing sites, Pirate Bay, went offline after Swedish police raided a Stockholm server room and seized the computers and servers that kept the site running. The shutdown is a coup for law enforcement; the site, which was founded in 2003 and at one point boasted more than 20 million users, has been in the "legal crosshairs for years", for hosted pirated music, movies and TV shows. Caitlim Dewey said in WashingtonPost.com "It just goes to show that you can take down Pirate Bay, but you can't kill the internet it created. The site has made digital piracy a casual, inarguable part of the mainstream".



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# A Look Inside IPANEMA

By Julia Melim

Photo: Bruno Padilha

Ipanema has always been a synonym of sun, beach, hot weather and beautiful people. The neighborhood actually conforms to the stereotype, showing that Ipanema has a lot to offer. For the Brazilians who live outside of Brazil, it is a given that Ipanema Beach is the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about Rio.

"My love for Rio started in Ipanema," says Tatiana Alves, Brazilian who lives in New York City but confesses she always misses Brazil. "In Ipanema I discovered a kind of happiness that I didn't know before and changed my life."

The famous neighborhood was turned into song and became one of the biggest inspirations for the Brazilian poets and musicians with the song "Girl from Ipanema," that became an unofficial Brazilian national anthem around the world. Even when foreigners don't know much about Brazil, they always know the lyrics and recognize the song.

"There's no girl in Girl from Ipanema," says Cláudio Torres Gonzaga, explaining that in an old television show they had to sing a song with the word "girl" and it wasn't until the end they realized that Girl from Ipanema is one of the few songs that doesn't carry its title in the lyrics. Cláudio jokes, "Ipanema is like Copacabana but with an attitude."

The restaurant Girl from Ipanema was named after the song on the street named after the composer, because it was inside the bar that the composer Vinicius de Moraes wrote the lyrics to what would become his most well known song. Even the restaurant defines the neighborhood as a place that unites the best stories, people from all over the world, good food and an eclectic environment – [www.bargarotadeipanema.com.br](http://www.bargarotadeipanema.com.br)

The neighborhood is home to the best bars, since I was a teenager; it was the favorite hangout spot, from Empório Bar and Shenanigans, to Barzin – [www.barzin.com.br](http://www.barzin.com.br) and Complex Esquina 111 – [www.thecomplex.com.br](http://www.thecomplex.com.br). It also has the best "juice houses" with fresh fruit juices made to order, Polis Sucos, Bibi Sucos – [www.bibisucos.com.br](http://www.bibisucos.com.br), the traditional bakeries that offer cheese bread and natural guaraná. Adding to the magic, not too far from there, it's where the all-nighters go after the nightlife for an early morning gourmet pizza on the way home at Pizzeria Guanabara.





The Feira Hippie de Ipanema - [www.feirahippieipanema.com](http://www.feirahippieipanema.com), an arts & crafts street fair that happens every Sunday at Praça General Osório is a must see! One can be delighted to find anything at the fair, from crafty earrings and necklaces made by hand, to beautiful landscape paintings depicting Rio de Janeiro, and the traditional local foods, like tapioca.

Ipanema is the neighborhood that absorbed the "carioca" local culture incorporating elements from all the other neighborhoods and social classes. "Until today Ipanema still carries the Avant-guard instinct, from the gay spots to the potheads, from the country club to the millionaires on the rooftops at Viera Souto, Ipanema is always reinventing itself

and creating the most democratic mixture in Rio de Janeiro," says the photographer Bruno Padilha.

And the carioca is proud of being part of this scenery, "Ipanema is perhaps the neighborhood that represents Rio the most; it has always been a reference for art, lifestyle, fashion and sports for Rio e to the world: surfing, theater arts, music, many of those who are now a representative of Brazilian culture grew up on that very beach. Ipanema is the best portrait of Rio showcasing all that the city has to offer in a neighborhood. Ipanema is everything you can imagine and more, it's exactly the ideal image of what anyone could expect of this exotic city going beyond all expectations.

#### Check This Out!

@ Soul Brasil You Tube Channel  
[www.youtube.com/soulbrasilmagazine](http://www.youtube.com/soulbrasilmagazine)

\* "Short Trip to Ipanema" including an amazing sunset at one of the most famous beach/neighborhood in the world.

\*\* A new video clip with the music "Garota de Ipanema" featuring Brazilian singer and resident of Los Angeles, Deborah Di Maski, with direction of Rogério Resende is highly recommended.

\*\*\* To know more about Julia Melim, a longtime Soul Brasil magazine writer contributor, actress, stand up comedian and Hollywood Report TV host check [www.juliamelim.com](http://www.juliamelim.com)

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# The Adventure and Expressions of Brazil's Music of Hermeto Pascoal

By Rebecca Kleinmann

Picture a man who looks like a wizard with long white hair, a huge frizzy white beard and pale skin, writing music symbols directly on a wall with a marker, his nose practically touching the wall due to his blurry vision. He hums to himself as he works steadily, without referencing a musical instrument and without pause, as if writing a stream-of-consciousness letter. The notes and chord symbols almost look like a child's scribbles, but when musicians gather around to interpret his creation, a gorgeous melody with rich harmony emerges! This is one of the scenes from my trip to Brazil at Chacará Riacho Doce near Ubatuba, where I had the privilege of spending time with this wizard, Hermeto Pascoal and musicians inspired by him.

As an Albino born in Alagoas, Brazil (1936), he was unable to play or work outdoors, so spent his childhood indoors or under the shade of a tree practicing the accordion his father gave him. He became a multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger and improviser. When I say multi-instrumentalist, I mean it! I have seen this genius play piano, flutes, drums, accordion, a glass of water, a bottle cap, and turn an audience into a musical instrument. This is a man who has chased pigs around on stage. You name it: Hermeto will turn it into music.

The compositions streaming from Hermeto's creativity captivate me. His melodies have a child-like, playful quality while harmonies whiz by with a complexity that could have stumped

Wagner. The rhythms are rooted in diverse genres of Brazilian music including baião, choro, samba, and extending into odd meter expressions of Brazil's cultural music. Hermeto's improvisations are compositions themselves. When he improvises on any instrument, the music takes a journey into completely unexpected territory. His knowledge and technique are mind-blowing, and he uses them in support of his wild expression. It always seems as if he is telling a story through his solo.

I have been fascinated with Hermeto's music for years, so when I heard of an opportunity to spend a week at a workshop with him in Brazil, I did my best to get there. I sold a flute, arranged a fundraising concert, sent off for a new Visa, and bought my ticket. The travel itself was an adventure! After getting stranded in Panama City, missing the only daily bus from Rio to my destination, and jumping on series of packed, sweaty local buses, I finally arrived at the workshop's remote location outside of Ubatuba just in time for dinner and happy to be greeted by many familiar faces.

I was welcomed first by Jovino Santos Neto, amazing pianist, arranger and composer who played with Hermeto for 15 years in Hermeto's famous "O Grupo" ("The Group"). Soon I saw Dennis Broughton, co-creator of the Ubatuba Brazil Camp and director of the California Brazil Camp. With him was Mestre Marcelo, co-creator and leader of the Capoeira segment of the Ubatuba workshop.

Hermeto Pascoal



I scanned the hotel dining room and saw Brazilian percussion master, Jorge Alabe and friends from the California Brazil Camp: many had traveled a long way! Hermeto, his girlfriend Aline Morena, and his son Fabio Pascoal were eating in the center of the dining room. They remembered meeting me before in Salvador and Seattle (stories for another time), and offered a warm welcome.

The following days consisted of classes with Jovino and Hermeto, Choro classes with guitarist Alessandro Penezzi and mandolinist Ted Falcon, cooling off at a beautiful mountain stream, group meals, and fantastic nightly music jams. Classes with Hermeto were exciting and unpredictable: he taught spontaneous arrangements by ear, a piece he had written in the morning, played drums to the melodica, and cheered as he listened to us play his music. Our ensemble of guitars, winds, mandolins, bass, drums, and percussion played by accomplished musicians made the





Photo: Kevin Yatarola – Divulgação

experience a joy. Jovino led us through Hermeto's compositions and translated Hermeto's jokes.

It strikes me that Hermeto is at once genius, humble, hilarious, and kind. He is positive and encouraging in a way that brings out the best in musicians, throwing his hands up in the air and cheering when someone takes a solo. There are no expressive markings in his music because he wants musicians to express themselves. "We all have different blood running through our veins," he told me. His philosophy is that if you play a sour note you turn it into something beautiful with what you play next, an attitude similar to Miles Davis' quote "there are no wrong notes" - Hermeto played with Miles and recorded on his album "Live Evil" in 1971.

I excitedly accepted an invitation from Hermeto and Aline to visit their home in Curitiba after

the workshop. We played music and visited the town, everywhere greeted by smiles. Hermeto gave me two amazing Brazilian flutes and wrote two beautiful pieces of music for me: "Rebeca Benvinda a Nossa Casa" (Rebecca, welcome to our home) and "Intuição Verdadeira é Assim" (Real intuition is like this). Wow!

Then something awful happened. While taking me back to the bus station, still full from lunch and driving over a cobblestone road, I suddenly felt sick and threw up, quickly opening the car door, but still making a mess. I was horrified! Within seconds Hermeto began to tap out a Maracatu rhythm on the dashboard and sing a song about my visit: "Rebecca chegou, Rebecca tocou, e Rebecca si vomitou..." Five improvised verses later, we were all laughing hysterically. A very uncomfortable moment was transformed by Hermeto's music and humor.

My trip rounded out in Rio where I had the luck to see more of Hermeto's musical progeny. I heard the Itibere Family Orchestra, an amazing group of young musicians who learn and perform music by ear, lead by Hermeto's long-time bass player; Carlos Malta incredible winds player and part of "O Grupo," for 11 years; joined by harmonica phenomenon Gabriel Grossi, and clarinet great Paulo Moura. I was able to see and hear the thread of lineage in musicality and attitude in the musicians Hermeto has influenced. They have in common cultural depth and outstanding virtuosity in service of a playful spirit. I am grateful to have witnessed a chapter in the legacy of this great artist. ■

Photo: Divulgação



Photo: Viviana Guzman



Rebecca Kleinmann

\* Rebecca Kleinmann is a flutist and singer based in Oakland, California. She will be touring California in early February 2015 with great accordionist Rob Curto, featuring original compositions, music of Hermeto Pascoal, and Forró for dancing – [www.rebeccakleinmann.com](http://www.rebeccakleinmann.com)

\*\* Special Thanks to Hermeto Pascoal, Jovino Santos Neto, and Dennis Broughton.



# The Girl and the 60's Bossa

Tall, tan, young and lovely, the infamously nostalgic song “Girl from Ipanema” completed 50 years in 2012. A beautiful young woman, who caught the eye of the songwriter, inspired the world famous Bossa Nova tune. But as the lyrics suggest, she would pass right by him and just keep walking to the ocean not even noticing him. This heartbroken songwriter/poet was Vinicius de Moraes.

He got together with Bossa Nova king Tom Jobim, and magic was created. Their collaboration was a perfect marriage of beautiful lyrics and soothing music. This girl who “swings so cool and sways so gently” first stepped out in public on August 1962, in a cramped Copacabana nightclub. The small club was 20 by 130 feet and sold out every night. Patrons realized something extraordinary was happening on the cramped little stage.

Bossa Nova was still young back then and was somewhat of a novelty, even in Rio, but the people couldn't get enough. The name Bossa Nova means “New Trend” and that's exactly what it was. Bossa Nova was a fresh, cool jazzy take on Brazil's holiest tradition, samba music. 1962 was also the year that Americans first heard Bossa Nova. The record “Jazz Samba” by Stan Getz and Charlie Byrd took the sounds of Brazilian music and filtered it through the simplicity of Americans musicians, making it palatable to the country's listeners. Although an instrumental jazz album, it remained on the Billboard charts for 70 weeks!

It wasn't until 1964 that “The Girl from Ipanema” came to the U.S with its English lyrics written by American Norman Gimbel. The words are a bit different from the original Portuguese version, but remain true in spirit. The Getz/Gilberto album eventually won the 1965 Grammy for best album of the year and suddenly, everyone was talking about “The Girl”. According to Performing Songwriter Magazine, “The Girls from Ipanema” became the most second re-recorded song in all of history after “Yesterday” by The Beatles. Among several famous singers that have recorded the song are Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Madonna, Cher and Amy Winehouse.

The popularity that Brazilian music enjoys today around the world is tightly related to Bossa Nova and its brilliant musicians such as Marcos Valle, Joao Gilberto, Vinicius de Moraes, Edu Lôbo and Antonio Carlos Jobim (aka Tom Jobim). In the top three best known Brazilian songs around the world two are under the genre Bossa Nova, *Águas de Março* (1972) or Water of March composed by Tom Jobim and *The Girl from Ipanema* (1962) composed by Vinicius de Moraes. The third one is *Aquarela do Brasil* (Portuguese), written in 1939 by Ary Barroso and known in the English-speaking world simply as “Brazil”, under the genre of Samba. ■



Photo: Creative Commons

Tom Jobim



Photo: ViniciusdeMoraes.Com

Vinicius de Moraes



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# Vegas Highlights

by Lisa Neary

In support of the US Marine Reserve's Toys for Tots Program, Mario Guardado, Las Vegas casino host and head of Latin Media Group, hosted a VIP Holiday Party at Sayers Lounge in the SLS Casino/Hotel. A good time was had by all in support of a cause that has delivered over 500 million toys to children over the last 65 years. A great initiative and another successful year providing holiday cheer to children in need.



The star of Brazilian born, Las Vegas fashion designer Aldo Mencatto keeps rising higher and higher. The Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra featured a runway fashion show of Aldo's beautiful fashions as the centerpiece of its Annual Luncheon at the Tuscany Casino/Hotel. At the show Aldo was honored by letters of commendation and congratulation from Las Vegas Mayor Carol Goodman and the Brazilian Ambassador to the United States, Mauro Vieira, through the Brazil Consulate in Las Angeles, Bruno de Risios de Barros. In 2014 the US Congress and the State of Nevada recognized Aldo Mencatto as a Person of the Year and the City of Las Vegas as a Golf 5 Star Business Owner.



*A super star Brasileira Ivete Sangalo esta confirmada no lineup do Rock in Rio USA-Las Vegas . Depois de participar dos festivais Rock in Rio no Brasil (Rio de Janeiro) e em Portugal, Ivete também vai participar da festa que acontecerá em Vegas em meados de Maio. A baiana teve sua participacao confirmada para o dia 15 de Maio. O evento do Rock in Rio USA em Vegas acontece dias 8, 9, 15 e 16 de Maio na cidade das luzes. Além de Ivete, ate essa edicao da Soul Brasil ser fechada tambem estavam ja confirmados as estrelas internacionais Bruno Mars, Taylor Swift, Sam Smith, Jessie J, Tove Lo e as bandas Empire of the Sun, Foster the People, Metallica e No Doubt.*





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# Queen – Vania – Samba

## A Story of Dreams and Achievements

Lindenberg Junior  
Translation by Amanda Pepper

Vania “Samba” Marques has faced many challenges in life, but from a very young age, she learned to be hopeful and fearless. She is from Feira de Santana (Bahia), however, she was raised in Parnavai (Parana). When she was a child, Vania participated in fashion shows, performed with choir groups in many churches, and acted in small productions. She was lucky for always having her family’s support.

Sadly, part of Vania’s past was quite obscure and related to the international traffic of women - a theme recently mentioned in one of TV Globo’s famous soap operas. However, in her

case, it was a true story. After being deceived by a mysterious German man, she left Brazil, believing that a bright future was waiting for her in Europe. What she didn’t know, was that her dream was about to become her worst nightmare. After arriving in Germany, she was cloistered in his house for three months.

With the help of a Brazilian friend, she finally escaped from her nightmare. Vania will always be thankful to her friend for providing her freedom. Soon after, she healed from her unfortunate experience, and was ready to be happy again and to dance samba. The Germans were very open to the Brazilian culture and welcomed her very warmly.

Because of her exceptional performances, Vania caught the attention of multiple Brazilian dance companies, including Brazil Energia and Brazil Tropical. She soon started her first dance tour through Europe. After the tour, she opened a Brazilian restaurant in Berlin, which ended up becoming a Show House and Lounge Bar.

In response to the successful career that her restaurant provided her, Vania “Samba” decided to open “O Tabá,” her second restaurant in Berlin. The place instantly became famous for its fantastic samba shows, and for the beautiful dancers of her group “Yes Brazil.” We are proud to say that she established an honorable career in Europe, and helped spread Brazilian rhythms throughout the world.

After living in Europe for 14 years, she moved to United States, where she is still living with



her husband Feliph Schuch, a successful businessman. Since 2004, she has been performing samba and other cultural shows with her company “Vania Samba Productions,” which is not only responsible for teaching the Brazilian culture in USA, but for bringing happiness to many children in need in Connecticut with free weekly concerts and workshops. Vania stands for a beautiful cause, which deserves our attention and respect.

During the Carnival season, she travels to Brazil and is invited to dance in multiple events in Rio de Janeiro. She usually dances for the famous Vila Isabel Samba School at the Avenida Marquês de Sapucaí or Sambodromo.

Even though she experienced a devastating circumstance, Vania Marques fought for her happiness throughout all these years, and has built a wonderful career. Despite the fact that she lives in a beautiful house in one of the nicest areas of Connecticut, she still maintains her simplicity. This is Vania, a brave woman who likes challenges and is passionate about dancing! ■











# Acontece em L.A

Por Claudia Passos



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(\*Fotos gentilmente cedidas por Cirila Cole)



**Olhos ABERTOS...** Marcus Roberto estará competindo pelo título de "Pizza Chef of the Year" no 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Pizza Challenge. O evento será realizado nos dias 24-26 de Março 2015 no International Pizza Expo em Las Vegas. Boa sorte Marcus!



Katia Moraes apresentou seu **"Brazilian Heart, a Celebration"** homenageando o legendário cantor e compositor da década de 30, Noel Rosa, no Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center localizado em Venice. O evento nos trouxe poesia, música e inclusive encenação, e teve as participações do poeta Peter Lounds, do violonista Mitchell Long e uma participação especial de Aninha Malandro e seu pai Carlinhos Pandeiro de Ouro.



**O segundo ANIVERSÁRIO...** da Banda MôForró foi comemorado com uma apresentação no Del Monte Speakeasy, um tradicional e bom lugar para os adeptos da boa música ao vivo em Venice Beach, ao som do acordeon, triângulo e zabumba, e com muito xaxado, baião, e xote nos pés. Parabéns a vocês!



**ENTÃO FOI NATAL...** a temporada de final de ano foi marcada por inúmeras confraternizações natalinas entre amigas brasileiras residentes em Los Angeles. A alegria contagiante de todas as participantes estava explícita em cada sorriso registrado.







## Soulebration 2015... no "Fundo de Quintal"

Nosso evento anual "Fundo de Quintal-Soulebration" 2015 aconteceu no dia 4 de janeiro no "backyard" da casa do músico Daniel Carneiro em Lawndale (South Bay-L.A Área) e contou com a presença de aproximadamente 70 pessoas, entre os quais, alguns importantes colaboradores como nossas fotografas Claudia Passos e Jane Ceron, as tradutoras Cristina e Mandy, amigos da velha guarda como Aloísio Couto e Marinho da Cuíca, e músicos de San Diego e Los Angeles como Carlinhos Pandeiro de Ouro, Will Shimizu, Renato Cupim, Bira Santos, Andre Monari, Israel Ferreira, Rodney de Assis, e Sandro Feliciano entre outros. As cenas foram registradas pelas lentes da amiga e fotografa Claudia Passos e do amigo e produtor de vídeo Rogério Resende.

Em uma forma de agradecer aos nossos colaboradores de 2013, em Janeiro de 2014 fizemos uma feijoada para apenas trinta pessoas na casa da Claudia Passos em Hawthorne. O encontro informal no "Fundo do Quintal" da casa da Claudia gerou muita satisfação. E naquele dia terminou em samba com a ajuda de alguns amigos/colaboradores – e uma animação especial e contagiante da colaboradora de Orange County, a professora e tradutora Valeria Rogick. Esse ano, por pedido de alguns participantes dessa primeira feijoada, voltamos a fazer, dessa vez na casa do Daniel Carneiro e com um pouco mais de pessoas. Divulgamos com restrição já que o espaço era limitado. Para manter a tradição, podem esperar a terceira feijoada e "Soulebration 2016"... Axé!





# Synchronizing Life

## A Conversation with Steven Halpern

Katia Moraes

I was sitting outside looking at the leaves of the trees changing color when a friend called me. He was crying because his father was going to die at any moment. I wanted to tell him about the peace I was feeling just looking at nature but he wouldn't have understood me. I was surprised when I listened to Steven Halpern's "Perfect Alignment" when I got home. He had translated into notes what I felt when I was looking at the leaves. His music transported me back to that special place full of peace.

I got the impression that Steven Halpern is an analytical man. By the tone of his voice and his conversation over the phone I understood that the left side of his brain works faster. I asked him: "Many therapists choose their profession because deep inside they want to find the causes of their own neurosis. Do you compose this kind of music because you're trying to balance your intellectual energy with your emotions?" He stopped to think. He said it was a good question and then told me that it was probably one of the reasons he chose his profession.

If you like Astrology, Steven Halpern is Aries, his rising sign is Capricorn and his moon is in Pisces. New York is his birthplace, but his grandparents were from Russia, and he doesn't remember much about them. Steven considers himself a

pioneer regarding composition for meditation, visualization, yoga, etc. In Brazil we call it New Age music. His first musical memory is of him crawling to the neighbors' door, listening to the music coming from inside. His first instrument was the trumpet, and John Coltrane is in his list of people who changed his view of the world. But one of the most important moments of his life was when he understood through jazz that he could play without reading music.

Steven wanted to be a psychotherapist, but understood from the beginning that music would be part of his life forever. "There were no musicians in my family", he says. "My father was a salesman and my mother used to work as a secretary in a public school." Steven graduated in Music Psychology. Following his heart, he created his own curriculum choosing classes that had to do with spirituality, psychology and music. It was during college that he became involved with world-renowned scientists. It was there that he started writing reviews and articles about music performances. Through his involvement with musical performances he also performed on stage.

In 1969, Steven traveled to San Francisco on vacations intending to find a way to deal with

medical problems which resulted from his stressful life. In this trip he had an unforgettable experience. Steven was riding a bike on a desert road when a man who was getting his mail asked him if he had showed up for the new job at the Bridge Mountain Foundation. The Foundation offered yoga, meditation and many other workshops. Right there he decided to take the job. He called his brother in Buffalo, asked him to send his belongings and moved to California where he lives to this day. Steven started playing piano more and meditating among the trees on his spare time. It was then that he developed his method of composition. His music "is a unique combination of luminous tonal quality with free-floating melodic and harmonic structure that reverberates the space and the silence between the notes."

Around 1973, Steven's friends and collaborators who knew about his original compositions asked him to share the news with other people. And that's how "Inner Peace Music" was born. For the last 30 years, Steven Halpern has been composing New Age music and proving in each album what Dr. Deepak Chopra said once: "We're genetically pre-programmed to enjoy well-being, joy, and inner peace, but we get knocked "out of tune" by stress". How do we get back in tune? Check his work. Your health will thank you! ■

\* This article was first published in the SB11 in 2004. Katia Moraes is a long time friend and Soul Brasil writer contributor. Obrigado Katia!





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# "Nossa Gente"

## Local Musicians Helps to Spread the Brazilian Culture through Music

By  
Lindenberg Junior  
Translation  
Amanda Pepper

Around the world, Brazilian music is appreciated and loved, and its rhythms and beauty can be recognized by whoever has the opportunity to get in contact with it. Just like soccer, Brazilian music became a trend almost everywhere you go. Bossa Nova was very much responsible for that during the 60's and afterwards, and it opened the doors for other Brazilian

rhythms to thrive beyond Brazilian boundaries. Great musicians from all over the globe are now singing and playing Brazilian music, and in U.S we have a bunch of them, including L.A, San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Francisco... but we will talk about them later (Yes, we will!). For now, we will illustrate a few local Brazilian musicians that in one way or another have

helped to disseminate the Brazilian culture through music. There are so many... I believe that if we count "full time" and "part-time" Brazilian musicians living in California and Nevada only, this number goes to over 100 easily. For obvious reasons, for now, we will present only fifteen of these great musicians, male and female, both "full-time" and "part-time".



### LULA ALMEIDA

Lula was born in Bahia, and his first time in California was in 1987, when he came for three months to perform with Grupo Bahia Tropical at the Meridian Hotel, in Newport Beach. In the following year, he came back to SoCal to study English and work on his music with the help of his friends, Floriano and Lazaro, directors of the Embrasamba, the first samba school in L.A. County. When living in Brazil, Lula was into capoeira, and worked at the landmark "Mercado Modelo" in Salvador, selling semi-precious stones. Lula "Meu Rei" (My King), how his friends like to call him, worked for many years with Badaro (another musician who came to L.A. and founded Viver Brasil Dance Company in the 90's in partnership with his American wife Linda Yudin) in the famous show house "Tenda dos Milagres", was an official composer of the internationally known Grupo Olodum, and was the singer of the band Pinel, a traditional "trio-eletrico" band in the carnival circuit of Salvador. He introduced SoCal to the Axe Music of Bahia in 1989, and to Lambada in 1990, with his band Lula & Afro-Brazil. A few of his most memorable performances was the one with Rick Martin in the 2002 Grammy Awards and with Alexandre Pires (Brazilian/Latin star) in the Latin Grammy of 2006. He works for a while for the "Open House" from the Hollywood Bowl, and through the Philharmonic Association. The charismatic Lula "Meu Rei" Almeida is married to the American teacher and dancer Abby.



### ANA GAZZOLA

Ana Gazzola is from Caxias do Sul (RS), a city known as the "grape land" in Brazil. She arrived in New York in 1990 to study English at the New York University. Six months later, Ana's cousin offered her a job in a company, and she decided to embrace the opportunity and move to Los Angeles. Alike New York, L.A. was a big city, however, it had a better weather, famous beaches and was the home of the cinema. Moving to Los Angeles was a challenge, but Ana was fearless and moved to the other side of the country without a second thought. According to Ana, living in L.A. was one of the best decisions she made in her life. At the beginning she worked as a limousine driver, and gave rides to famous people like George Benson, Naomi Campbell, Mel Gibson, Axel Rose and many others. This period of her life was very interesting, and Ana had the opportunity of meeting a lot of people in the entertainment business. When she lived in Brazil, Ana was already a professional singer. She worked in both, Rio de Janeiro and in São Paulo night. Currently, Ana runs a production company called "Yellow Green Production" with the singer Sonia Santos. They both travel the world, representing our culture and performing in many show houses, theatres and universities with their "Brasil Brazil Show". Besides singing, Ana Gazzola works as a voice-over actress for many projects including movies and TV commercials.





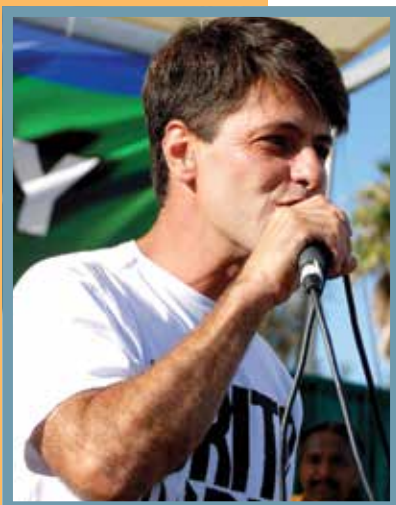
### FLAVIO RIBEIRO

Flavio is a beach and sports' fan from Rio de Janeiro. He is a real "carioca", and lived a great part of his life in Rio, enjoying the beauty of Barra da Tijuca and Jacarepagua. Flavio had many occupations in his life, including being a life-guard, a professional diver, a futsal player and a P.E. teacher. Besides that, he was also into skydiving and music on his free time. Since he was a little boy, Flavio dreamed of living in USA, and he finally achieved his goal when he moved to Los Angeles in 1992. At the beginning, he worked in many restaurants and helped cleaning boats, till he gets a job in Varig Brazilian Airlines, in its office in L.A. In 2003, he created a group of pagode and samba called "Brasildade". He currently works as a teacher in Marlborough High School, is a soccer coach in the Athletic Soccer Club, and is constantly performing with his band "Brasildade" the hits of pagode and samba music. He has two daughters (Melissa and Vanessa) with his wife Katia Felisardo.



### DEBORAH DI MASKI

Deborah moved to L.A. in 1978, after working in Brazil for five years as a Varig flight attendant, and three years as a lawyer – she got her degree in 1975. She was born in Curitiba (PR) and raised in Rio. In her childhood, Deborah was part of choir groups in many churches and always admired the Bossa Nova movement and figures such as Tom Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes. When living in L.A., Deborah worked for many years as a waitress in night clubs, and became a mother of her only child, Christopher, in 1981. The turning point of her career was in 2008, when she won a beauty contest for women over 40 years old, and had to sing in front of everyone in the event. Her performance made the heads of the event and the audience very impressed, and since then, Deborah did not stop singing. When Michael Jackson died, she recorded a CD in honor of the American pop king. A few years later, she recorded her second album with her Brazilian friend and musician, Santa'nna, however the album was not finalized because of his tragic death. With the help of another musician and producer, Pablo Medina, she could finally finalize her second project. In partnership with the composer Rique Pantoja, Deborah is working on a brand new project which will come out this year.



### RENATO CUPIM

Cupim is a former professional skater born in Sao Paulo. He came to Los Angeles in 1997 and decided to stay in Orange County, where he already knew a few Brazilian skaters who lived in the area. One of the biggest reasons why Cupim moved to California was the fact that the state was well known for its surfing and skating outstanding competitions. Only a few months after his arrival, Cupim had problems with his knee and stopped competing. Since he was not able to skate anymore, he looking for alternatives and started working as a car mechanic to pay his bills. After a few knee surgeries, Cupim started competing again till 2005, and with his experience, he became an agent of Brazilian skaters. Even though he had a good career in skating, Renato Cupim always liked music. A few years ago, in partnership with the composer Arlindo Junior, he created the band "Sambajah", which turned out to be the first Brazilian Band of Orange County. When Arlindo had to move back to Brazil, they both agreed that he should take the band with him to São Paulo, and make their music successful in Brazil too. Cupim then, created a new band called "Cupim do Samba", which is still bringing happiness to the Brazilians of O.C.! Besides being a skater agent and musician on his free time, Cupim is also a business man and the owner of a Catering Company. He is married to Thais and has to kids, Ashley and Felipe.



### BETO GONZALEZ

Was born in New York City to Brazilian parents from São Paulo. After a few years, the family moved back to São Paulo where Beto was raised until he was 10 years old. The family then relocated to Los Angeles, where Beto has lived since 1980. As an adult Beto traveled many times to Brazil and spending significant time in Salvador and Rio de Janeiro. In 2007-08 Beto lived for one year in Rio de Janeiro conducting ethnographic research on urban samba. He has two Master's degrees from UCLA and is also a PhD candidate in Ethnomusicology. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Samba Society, and singer/percussionist for MÔFORRÓ. Aside from being a musician, Beto is also a producer, works in the non-profit sector as an arts administrator and consultant, and is an avid photographer. Beto is married to Shelby Williams-González and they have a daughter, Xochitl, both born in Los Angeles. Although he loves northeast of Brazil, Beto's favorite city is Rio because of the city's legacy of urban samba. \*Photo by John Bajana.



### ANDRÉA FERRAZ

Andrea was born in the city of Guaratingueta (SP), where her grandparents used to live. However, she spent most of her childhood in Copacababa, Rio. After growing up in Brazil, when she was 16, Andrea moved to Miami with her parents on the late 80's. In 1990, she decided to visit Los Angeles with a friend, and fell in love with the city. Andrea then moved to Los Angeles, however she also lived for a while in Hawaii, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware (where she got her masters in Theater), and Oregon, (where she worked as a Shakespearean actress and Opera singer). Andrea was interested in acting and in music since she was a little girl, and she also appeared in TV commercials and Globo soap operas when she was still living in Brazil. In L.A., she is known as a MPB singer. She also writes her own songs and works on a project which mixes Brazilian and "house" rhythms. Besides singing and acting, Andrea also works in journalism, radio broadcasting, and as a translator. You can hear her voice as a voice-over actress in many movies, including the animation "Rio".



### ADDASI S ADDASI

Addasi was born in Dourados, Mato-Grosso do Sul. He came to L.A. in 2004 to stay with his father, who already lived in SoCal. When he was living in Brazil, Addasi worked in his family's supermarket and studied tourism. Following his dream of learning about music and other cultures, he traveled to over 30 countries as a backpacker at a very young age. Even though traveling the world was a wonderful experience, there was no other place better than California for the young Addasi. SoCal seemed to be ideal for his dreams, and the fact that his father and brothers lived in Anaheim made him feel even better. Addasi is a guitar player and creator of the band Black Oil, which is finalizing its third album, called Resist To Exist. His band will soon go on a world tour with performances in Mexico, U.S.A, Russia and South America, including Brazil. He has been living in Anaheim for 10 years. He is married to Irene Addasi, a Brazilian from Sao Luis, capital of Maranhao, and have a daughter named Ayune. Besides being a musician, Addasi owns a recording studio called Fuel Music Studio and also works as a music producer.



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### ISRAEL FERREIRA

The carioca, Israel Ferreira, is son of Luizinho Ferreira, founder of MILA (Mocidade Independent of Los Angeles), a samba school group in the 90's that made history doing performances every Friday night for many years at the former Café Danza in West L.A. His mother is the singer-songwriter Nadia Maria Lima and consequently, he grew up surrounded by musical influences. At the age of 18, he moved to L.A and joined the MILA. Soon after, he composed his first song "Um Sonho Que Faltava". It would be the first of a series of eclectic music that he would create during his career. In 2007, MILA ended its activities in L.A after twenty years. Months later, Israel did not realize that would develop into the greatest creation of his life. In a moment of inspiration, Ferreira initiated the "Casa do Samba", a project involving the production of events, dance and music lessons. In 2009, along with his wife Bia Ferreira, he became a collaborator of CUFA - Central Union of Slums, an organization recognized for its numerous social projects in countries around the world, and through CUFA / USA-LA extension, starts to work with underserved communities of Los Angeles. He is the father of Aylah Carolina and Kylie Sarah.



### TEKA

A native of Londrina, Paraná and a graduate in Music Education and Arts at São Paulo State University, Téka came to the US in 1985 to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston and also to join her husband-to-be, Paris Psaros who was a student at the New England Conservatory of Music. In Brazil, Téka was teaching music education, marching band and performing as a flutist with her band. While attending Berklee she decided to change her focus from the flute to voice. She mastered the traditions of Brazilian music at an early age. Along the way, she became equally entranced by American jazz. For several years now, living in Santa Barbara, CA, Teka plays what she calls New Bossa and has established herself as a mature, world- class talent. Her latest release, So Many Stars, was described by the International Review of Music as "a definitive statement that she has matured into a gifted, world-class musical artist. Téka has a summer evening breeze quality to her voice always. She is as smooooth as bossa nova can be and that is very smooth indeed." She is the mother of 17 year old Luana Psaros.



### BIRA SANTOS

Bira is a Brazilian musician from São Paulo. He came to U.S.A in 2000 and decided to stay in Orange County. In Brazil, he worked as a mechanic designer, and once he moved to California he got a designer certificate in the Golden West College of Huntington Beach. He is currently studying Web Design and will receive a certificate in this area as well. Bira is a music fan and he is known for his performances in the bands "Sambajah" and "Cupim do Samba". He is married, but does not have kids yet.





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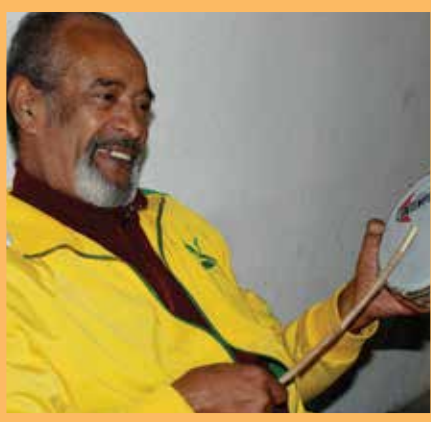
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### **WILLIAN SHIMIZU**

Born and raised in the neighborhood of Ipiranga in São Paulo, Will arrived in the US in 2009 from Japan where he lived for three years and worked in the quality control department of Sony Japan. In Brazil he was already a musician and even got to have a musical bar for two years. He currently lives in Orange County, is divorced but have two children, Giovanna, born in Brazil, and Joah, born in US. "Shimizu do Cavaco", as he is known among friends, is a versatile musician that plays several instruments, but favors the cavaquinho (kind of Brazilian ukelele) as his principal instrument. Furthermore, Will's swing as a singer soon gained space as guest musician for some of the best samba bands in US. In Southern California he often plays with the group Brasilidade and New Cycle.



### **CARLINHOS PANDEIRO DE OURO**

The legend of Rio's Carnaval and tambourine master, Carlinhos Pandeiro de Ouro, performed for many important figures such as Queen Elizabeth and President Obama. He also had the honor to perform with international stars such as Liza Minelli and with top Brazilian musicians like Zeca Pagodinho. Carlinhos lived in Sweden and in Hawaii for many years before he moved to L.A., where his kids and grandkids lived. To know more about him, please check out the article published in one of our last editions in the music & dance section of our website [www.soulbrasil.com](http://www.soulbrasil.com).



### **SONIA SANTOS**

Sonia lives in Los Angeles for more than two decades and has built her brilliant music career still in Brazil when living in her native Rio de Janeiro. Her "Brasil Brazil Show" together with Ana Gazzola, completed 20 years this pasted 2014 bringing the enthusiasm and excitement of Brazilian Music blending the classic with the contemporary, from sophisticated jazz harmonies to Afro-Brazilian drumming and funk. While performing the most well-known Brazilian standards, their contemporary arrangements present all the rhythms and faces of this high spirit and colorful Brazil. Stay tuned for more in our next issue!

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Photo: Jane Ceron

### ANDRE MONARI

This composer, singer, and guitarist from Santo Andre, Sao Paulo, came to the US in 2012 to attend an international festival in Las Vegas. He decided to stay and months later was already working at the Mandalay Bay hotel and casino, and then began performing at Sambalatte nights. In Vegas he also performed in other casinos on the strip like the Monte Carlo until he decided to move to San Diego just after this first visit to the city. Since then, he has participated in two Brazilian Day San Diego, the largest outdoor Brazilian event in the west coast and has recorded with the famous producer Alan Sanderson (winner of three Grammys with the Rolling Stones) among other things. He should launch his new CD soon. In addition to performing in several hot spots in San Diego, he has a project called "Chocolate Soup" in partnership with his drummer and friend Michael Atesalph.



### LUIZA MARQUES

Luiza was born in Salvador, Bahia and has been living in San Diego for over 40 years. She has been singing Brazilian music in San Diego since the late 1970's. In fact, she is considered the first Brazilian singer in San Diego. Luiza sings jazz, bossa nova, forro, Axe, and of course Samba. She is married to Brazilian musician, Ademar Marques, the guitar and bass player from Recife. Luiza knew Ademar in Brazil during the time she worked in Recife's capital, Pernambuco, in the 80's, and Ademar was playing for the known local band "Trio Eletrico" Turma do Pinguim, lead by Almir Roche. Luiza Marques has played four San Diego Street Scenes, San Diego's largest music event representing Brazil. Luiza and Ademar are working in a new project called "100 Years of Caymmi", and performances for this new show should happen next summer (2015). The couple have three daughters, Andrea, Liana and Michelle; and three grandchildren, Alyxander, Vincent and Nicholas.



Photo: Jane Ceron

### NEW PROJECT – "COMBOSSA" IN SAN DIEGO

A new Brazilian Music project was launched in San Diego on January 15<sup>th</sup> at Gallagher's Irish Pub in Ocean Beach. COMBOSSA is a World Music band with a spontaneous musical fusion. The band translates the meeting of the Brazilian musical miscegenation: Samba, Samba-Reggae, Baião, and Reggae/New Roots, with America's African Influenced Music; Soul, Funk, Rock, R&B, Rap, and Jazz. On stage this meeting of rhythms and styles presents a range of mellow to up vibe tunes, giving the public the experience of the resulting diversity of this synergistic combination. Welcome to the "scene"!



Photo: Jane Ceron





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# Brazilian Heart, a Celebration

By Kátia Moraes

In 2011, when my band Sambaguru took a sabbatical, I found myself reading a few articles about Elis Regina's passing 30 years before. That led me to reread the book "Furacão" (Hurricane,) the first biography ever written about Elis, which was written by Regina Echeverria and came out shortly after Elis died in 1982. Elis was my idol. Her passion inspired me to be a singer, and now, one more time, that passion was igniting another change.

I started researching her life, collecting her opinions, and quotes about her from different musicians and producers, gathering photos, listening to her records, and watching whatever videos I could find. "Breathing" Elis this way inspired me to create "Brazilian Heart, a Celebration" to pay homage to her life. I shared my idea with Marcia Argolo, who was at the time Assistant Producer to Judy Mitoma for the World of Sacred Music Festival. She loved the idea and soon after we started preparing for our first event. Brasil Brasil Cultural Center, a Brazilian gem run by Amém and Nayla Santo, was the perfect venue for it.

Artists touch us in different ways, and I wanted to find a way to convey what I felt with Elis' singing. I chatted with my friend, set designer Brad Austin, and asked him to create the enchanting room I had imagined. We also invited photographer Jorge Vismara to exhibit his images of Elis, and create a short video. The performance featured Leo Costa on drums, Mitchell Long on guitar, Bill Brendle on piano, and unforgettable bassist Antonio Sant'Anna who passed away last year; all friends.

I learned a lot about myself from this initial adventure. First, being an artist does not mean you're a patient organizer and producer. I had to acknowledge that I was so eager to make the event happen as I envisioned, that I became impatient. I also realized that I got hooked. I wanted to celebrate Brazilian artists again and again.

"Why?" people asked. "You could be taking care of your own career as a singer/songwriter." I was speechless. Wasn't it obvious? No words could express my passion when researching the history of my culture. Now I know that it is not only about the history of an artist: it is about the land of my birth.

As soon as we finished the Elis event, I already found myself looking for the next artist. At that time I was singing with Beto Gonzalez's Samba Society. The repertoire he chose for the ensemble brought back memories of my teenage years, and of the tunes I sang with the Pure Samba band as well. The hits by singer Clara Nunes were always surrounding me.

Following my intuition, I immersed myself in Clara's stories, music, videos, and invited Beto's 8-piece band for the 2013's concert. This time we decorated the room ourselves with white and blue curtains to surround Clara with the colors of Portela, the samba school she embraced early on when she moved to Rio de Janeiro.

Tragically, Elis and Clara had died too young. They reminded me of my own mom, who also died way too soon. Now I know that deep in my heart I was also celebrating my mother's life. I

always believed I could make a show happen by the sheer force of my desire. But, after two celebrations, I knew that to be fair to everyone involved, a self-produced event would require not only lots of passion, perseverance, talent, and amazing friends, it would also require a little bit of money.

At around the same time, I had begun witnessing the growing wave of Kickstarter campaigns, and had donated to some projects already. It was clear to me what a difference these campaigns could make in an artist's life. Why not support great projects and create a new reality instead of keep complaining about how this financial crisis had hit us?

2014 arrived and there I was again, asking myself: "Which female artist had enriched my life?" Then, I recalled an LP entitled "Drama" by Maria Bethânia that I love very much. One of the most unique things about Bethânia is her love for literature and theater. This time I'd have the opportunity to translate into English quotes from the poems she used in her shows. That would help bring a better understanding of Brazilian culture to the non-Portuguese speakers in the audience.

Since Marcia Argolo would have less time to dedicate to the project, we invited Maria Alice Jacob to join us. Kana Shimanuki shared the vocals and assisted me directing the show. João Pedro Mourão was the musical director of the 7-piece band that featured Felipe Fraga on percussion, Simon Carroll on drums, Isaías Elpes on bass, Mitchell Long on guitar, and Flavio Medeiros on piano.





Photo by Jorge Vismara

At the end of 2013 I sang at a box theatre called CAP Studio and fell in love with the place. The venue was perfect for Bethânia's celebration so I made a deal with Sinclair and Ipolani Lott, and Alex Marino to lease the place. After that, I crossed my fingers and launched the Kickstarter campaign. I'm so grateful it worked!

Now 2015 is here and the dream continues. "The First Brazilian Beatnik: Noel Rosa" will be the first Brazilian male musician to be honored. Noel has a special place in my family's history. I was young when my family moved to a neighborhood next door to Vila Isabel, Noel's birthplace. It was there that I heard Choro and Samba bands for the first time.

Why did I choose Noel? Journalist João Máximo stated it brilliantly:

"The young bohemian Noel was the first white middle class man to compose with at least 15 Afro Brazilian composers living in the favelas. That was non-existent in the 1930's. He reinvented the lyrics of the popular music that, until then, was based in an overly ornate poetry of the XIX century. Noel 'cleaned' the exaggerations and brought forth characters from daily life" with humor and verve. "He understood the difference between a poet and a modern lyricist."

On December 11, 2015 Noel would have been 105 years old. Happy birthday, Noel de Medeiros Rosa! And thank you, Elis Regina, Clara Nunes, Maria Bethânia. I'm forever grateful to your passion of expression! ■



\* To know more about the Brazilian Heart, a Celebration Project please visit [www.katiamoraes.com](http://www.katiamoraes.com)

\*\* Editorial assistance by Susan DiGiuli

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# Irene Balnis



**BORN:** La Jolla, California, **LIVES:** Ocean Beach, San Diego, CA, **Weight:** 115 lbs, **HEIGHT:** 5'2", **SIGN:** Scorpio/Libra Cusp, **COLOR(S):** The Rainbow! Blues, Greens & Purple, **FOOD:** Seafood, Brazilian BBQ, Avocados! **HOBBY:** Drawing, Photography, Native American Indian Beadwork, **SPORTS/FITNESS:** Running, Swimming, Weightlifting, **MUSIC:** Reggae, House, Funk, Samba, **CAREER:** Licensed Massage Therapist, **A DREAM:** Own my own Holistic Spa and buy a home in Hawaii! **MOTTO:** Love the life you live! You get back what you give! **\*PHOTOS:** Roman Gomez, Skip Middleton.



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