

# Jovino Santos Neto



The barriers between classical music, jazz, and indigenous Brazilian music have been obscured by Rio de Janeiro-born and Seattle-based pianist, flutist, and composer Jovino Santos Neto.

A member of Hermeto Pascoal's legendary band from 1977 to 1992, Santos Neto has continued to expand on his world music-influenced

vocabulary. He built on his knowledge of Brazilian music during a stint with Airo Moreira and Flora Purim's group, Fourth World, from 1993 until 1997. He also worked with such artists as Mike Marshall, Richard Boukas, Celso Machado and Chittravina N. Ravikiran. He has recorded several albums with flutist Gary Stroutsos, including the Native American-influenced *People of the Willows* in 2000. He toured Europe in 1994 with Swiss cellist David Pezzoti.

Santos Neto's 1997 debut solo album, *Caboclo*, featuring his compositions with the accompaniment of quartet members Hans Teuber (saxophones, flute), Chuck Deardorf (bass) and Mark Ivester (drums), was followed by *Ao Vivo em Olympia* in 2000 (with the addition of percussionist Jeff Busch and Harvey Wainapel on saxes and clarinet) and by *Canto do Rio* in 2003. *Canto do Rio* was commissioned by Chamber Music America's New Works program and was nominated for a 2004 Latin Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album. He also received commissions by the IAJE and ASCAP, Jack Straw Foundation, Seattle Arts Commission, Artist Trust and Meet the Composer. Jovino was the recipient of a Golden Ear Award as the Best Jazz Instrumentalist of the Pacific Northwest in 2004. Santos Neto's most recent release in 2006, *Roda Carioca*, has received rave international reviews

Studying classical piano from the age of 12, Santos Neto moved to Beatles and Rolling Stones-influenced pop by his 15th birthday. He began to focus on jazz while studying biology at McGill University in Montreal. Invited to tour Brazil with Hermeto Pascoal in 1977, Santos Neto remained an important part of the Brazilian multi-instrumentalist's band for 15 years, co-producing six albums, including *Festa dos Deuses*, which received a Sharp Prize as Best Instrumental Album in 1992, and archiving thousands of Pascoal's compositions.

Relocating to the United States in 1993 after performing on Sergio Mendes's Grammy award-winning world music album, *Brasileiro*, Santos Neto studied conducting at the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, where he continues to teach piano, composition, and jazz ensemble. He gives lectures and workshops on Brazilian music worldwide and continues to collaborate with his long time mentor Hermeto Pascoal as the music director of the Hermeto Pascoal Big Band. He is a member of the IAJE, Chamber Music America, NARAS, LARAS and the Seattle Composers Alliance.

## Agency

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"Carefree and spontaneous, yet finely crafted and performed with virtuosic flair"  
- **Mark Holston on *Roda Carioca*, JAZZIZ**

"...a warm, high-energy player, as fun to watch as he is to hear."

- **Mark Fefer  
Eastside Weekly**

"Soft, expressive waltzes and ballads were convincingly paired with juxtaposed dance rhythms; the borders between notated "serious" music, "intuitive" folk and "improvised" jazz were crossed to the point of becoming irrelevant.

- **"Neue Zürcher Zeitung"  
Switzerland**

"He is a brilliant and intuitive keyboard player (and flutist) who explores jazz, classical and Brazilian traditional music with equal zeal "

- **Paul de Barros, Seattle Times, Aug. 30, 2000**