

CURIMBA TRIO

BIOGRAPHIES (LONG)

SAM WATTS – PIANO

Sam Watts is a pianist and composer specialising in Brazilian music and Jazz. Born in Birmingham U.K, he began playing at the age of 6. After taking an interest in improvisation and jazz as a teenager he eventually went on to study with scholarships at both Leeds College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, where he won the Humphrey Lyttleton Prize. His early influences were jazz pianists such as Oscar Peterson, Herbie Hancock, Bill Evans and Erroll Garner, although he has always maintained an interest in classical music as well, and has extensively studied classical composition, counterpoint and orchestration.



He is an established jazz pianist and has worked with artists including Jean Toussaint, Jason Miles, Jason Marsalis, Abram Wilson, Ray Warleigh and Judi Jackson. He has performed internationally at numerous jazz festivals and concert venues, including performances at Wigmore Hall, Symphony Hall, A Love Supreme festival, Paris Jazz Festival, Ronnie Scott's jazz club and the Royal Albert Hall, often performing his own compositions. He has also made live appearances on BBC Radio 2 and 3 and has recently toured in all over Europe and further afield, including recent appearances in South Africa, Brazil and Malaysia.

His playing style, while rooted in jazz improvisation, crosses many boundaries, including classical and romantic harmony and rhythms from all over the world. He is known for his specialisation in Brazilian music, and performs with many great Brazilian musicians living in Europe, including Marcelo Andrade, Luna Cohen, Jurandir Santana, Luiz Morais, Monica Vasconcelos, Adriano Adewale and the group 'Hermeto Hermeto'. He has travelled to Brazil twice, performing and exploring the musical culture, and in 2017 he was a guest lecturer at UFBA (University of Bahia) in improvisation. He has also taught at the prestigious Trinity College of Music (London) and for the National Youth Jazz Collective (UK).

In 2017 he released his debut album "Mime Music" on the SPARK! Label. The music was described by pianist Liam Noble: "This music alternates wildly between moods, pastoral tangos and rags shot through with wild noise and colourful textures, and string melodies holding the whole thing together". He has also appeared on numerous album recordings, and in 2017 collaborated on 2 projects as musical director with producer Jason Miles (Miles Davis, Marcus Miller). As a composer he has written a lot of music for film, and has performed several of his original silent film scores at Wilton's Music Hall in London as well as other venues around the U.K. His compositions have been broadcast on BBC radio 3 as part of the BBC proms, and one of his piano compositions was recorded for international CD release by concert pianist Natalia Strelchenko.

His current project "Curimba Trio", featuring Jurandir Santana and Adriano Adewale, performs compositions of the band members which combine traditional Brazilian rhythms with an energetic, improvisatory jazz approach to performance, as well as re-examining music by composers such as Egberto Gismonti and Chico Buarque.

JURANDIR SANTANA – GUITAR

Jurandir Santana is considered one of the greatest guitarists from Brazil. With a unique style, he has been dedicated researching the full complexity of Brazilian music. His relationship with music began at the age of 10. Today, Jurandir Santana has a respected C.V, he has worked with big names of Brazilian music and world music, including Gilberto Gil, Gal Costa, Rosa Passos, Daniela Mercury, Jaques Morelenbaum, Seamus Blake Xangai, Toninho Horta, Fabiana Cozza, Mariene de Castro, Fredrik Nooren., Armandinho Macedo, Arthur Maia, Nico Assunção, , Gabriel Grossi , Nelson Veras, Marcio Montarroyos, Nelson Ayres, Chico Pinheiro and Filó Machado.



As a teacher he was invited to teach some masterclasses at Berklee College of Music(USA) and Western Illinois University (USA).

In 2006 Jurandir Santana released his debut album "Só Brasil" (Maritaca label, São Paulo) – A work that is the result of years of research, creating a new sound and discovering new nuances of Brazilian music. One of tracks on the CD is "Cravo e Canela" his version receiving the approval of Milton Nascimento and Ronaldo Bastos. His CD "Only Brazil" filled with references to Bahian music, invites the listener to explore the richness of Brazilian rhythms such as frevo, maracatu, chula, samba de roda and Ijexá. Giving special emphasis to the rich variety of the northeastern Brazilian sound, he incorporates the jazz approach he has acquired throughout his brilliant career. This work has special guests such as Nelson Ayres, Teco Cardoso, Joana Bocanera, Simone Mota and Damares Martins. It won the Braskem prize for the best Jazz CD from Bahia.

He has recently released a new album, "Um Segundo" (Temps Records, Barcelona). Jurandir Santana has been slowly creating a highly personal style, as seen in the nine songs on this CD. In striking contrast he uses acoustic guitar with traditional instruments to which he brings new life, such as the viola caipira from Brazil, or the Canary timple. More than ever, Jurandir Santana is presented as an explorer of new sounds which are an echo of several worlds. This album has special guests such as Seamus Blake, Childo Tomas, Carola Ortiz, Joana Bocanera e Denise de Macêdo.

A musician recognized in Brazil with a solid musical career, Jurandir Santana has achieved a well-deserved place in the international music scene. He currently appears regularly in Europe and the USA.

ADRIANO ADEWALE – PERCUSSION

Brazilian percussionist/composer Adriano Adewale is a versatile musician and performer, known for his unconventional and exploratory approach to music, and for his ability to create magical soundscapes from the seemingly banal. Adriano was born in Sao Paulo – Brazil. For many years he was known as Adriano Pinto, a colonial name he received at birth. It was after his visit to Africa (Nigeria and Benin Republic) searching for his roots that he changed his name to Adriano Adewale Itauna, respectively from the Yoruba-Nigeria and Tupi Guarani-Brazil. Adewale means royal child who came back home and Itauna means black rock.



Music has always been part of Adriano's life. His father is an amateur percussionist, who used to play drums for carnival times, and also when there are family gatherings, members of the family always play drums. Adriano's maternal grandfather used to play Clarinet, his uncle played accordion and every weekend they would meet and play 'Chorinho music' (a type of Brazilian Jazz). There are also two uncles who played a great influence on Adriano's career, Claudio Silva who was a virtuoso 'Pandeiro' player and Joao Nicanor who is a singer song writer, guitarist and actor.

In April 2000, Adriano moved to the UK, where he has since established himself as a respected percussionist, composer, educator and band leader. His first band in the UK was called Sambura, which released one album: "Cru". In 2002 Adriano became part of the Antonio Forcione Quartet, which has been performing all over the world.

In 2004 Adriano went to Africa (Nigeria-Benin) in search for his roots and also to study music with great master percussion players. This trip has deeply changed Adriano's playing and understanding of his own culture in various aspects. Upon his return, he went on studying again, this time a Masters course in Music/Performance at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

In 2008 Adriano released his first solo album - Sementes - produced by Gilad Atmov. It featured the 'Adriano Adewale Group' an international line-up of musicians including Nathan Riki Thomson, Kadijally Kouyate and Marcelo Andrade. In 2012 he released 'The Vortex Sessions', a collaboration with the foremost Brazilian piano player Benjamin Taubkin. Followed by Raizes, his second solo album with the 'Adriano Adewale Group', produced by the great Chris Kimsin (Rolling Stones, Jimmy Cliff).

As a composer, Adriano has been commissioned by Bath Music Festival to write a new music piece for the opening of 2011 and 2012's Bath festivals. He was also a composer/music director of dance-theatre piece Ballroom of Joys and Sorrows, a collaboration with Kate Flatt (original choreographer of Les Miserables). He has composed for dance companies, including Phoenix Dance Company 2016, with whom he wrote the score for 'Undivided lovers', a dance piece based on and celebrating Shakespeare's 400 anniversary. Most recently he composed his first orchestral work 'Suite Dialogues', which was premiered by the Horsham Symphonic Orchestra in July 2017.

Adriano has performed with leading musicians such as the great singer Bobby McFerrin, pianist Joanna McGregor (with whom he still plays as a duo) combining classical, jazz and contemporary classical music. Pianist Benjamin Taubkin, one of the foremost piano players and composers from Brazil. Adriano has a long relationship with Taubkin, and one studio record and a live album soon to be released.

Britten Sinfonia has performed a piece by Adriano at the City of London Festival 2011, together with Joanna McGregor. This show was broadcast on BBC. Other artists he has worked with include: Sara-Jane Morris, Tuti Moreno, Julia Biel, Seb Rochford, Andy Shapperd, Ronu Majundar.