

# Brazilian Café

(PUT 292 Liner Notes)

As legend has it, it was while sitting together at their regular café in Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro's fashionable beachside district, that Brazilian composers Antônio Carlos Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes were inspired to write "Girl from Ipanema." They would marvel at the beautiful neighborhood girl, Helô Pinheiro, who often walked by. Their ode to her has become one of the world's most beloved melodies. It surely wasn't the first time, nor will it be the last, that creative serendipity has taken place at a Brazilian café.

Brazil is the world's largest coffee producer and Brazilians traditionally drink a *cafézinho*, a small and sweet shot of strong coffee, many times throughout the day. While European-style coffee culture and ubiquitous chain coffee shops are only recent fads in Brazil, relaxing at a café has long been an essential part of the Brazilian lifestyle.

Like almost everything in Brazil, music is also part of the picture. Wherever people gather in Brazil, be it cafes, bars, restaurants or *botequins*, the uniquely Brazilian combination of all three, you can usually expect live musical accompaniment. So, make like a Brazilian, pour a *cafézinho* and enjoy this selection of beautiful *bossa nova*, *samba* and jazz.



## 1. Djavan

### Embola Bola (Cateretê)

artist: jyah-vahn song: ehm-boh-lah boh-lah kah-teh-reh-teh

Djavan has been one of Brazil's most important singer-songwriters since the mid-1970s and he is one of the leading performers of the catch-all genre dubbed *Música Popular Brasileira* (Popular Brazilian Music), or MPB for short. With influences ranging from *bossa nova* and *samba* to African music to American rock, funk and jazz, Djavan is renowned for his captivating melodies and accessible soul. Born into a poor family in Northeastern Brazil, Djavan moved to Rio in 1973, and a few years later released his hit song "Flor de Lis."

Over the years, Djavan has recorded with Stevie Wonder and Paco de Lucía, not to mention dozens of Brazilian stars. His songs have been covered by Al Jarreau, Manhattan Transfer and Carmen McRae, among others, and in 2000, Djavan's song "Acelerou" received a Latin Grammy for Best Brazilian Song.

"Embola Bola (Cateretê)" is one of Djavan's best-known songs. He uses the rhythmic elements of Afro-Portuguese language wonderfully, singing "cateretê" and "embola" (both traditional Northeastern dances) as if they were themselves musical instruments.

## 2. Márcio Faraco

### Na Casa Do Seu Humberto

artist: MAHR-see-oh fah-RAH-koh song: nah kah-sah doh seh-oo oom-BAIR-toh

Singer, composer and guitarist Márcio Faraco is devoted to the sophisticated lyrics and soft, lilting melodies of Brazil's classics. "I play the Brazilian music that I grew up with," he says. "I listened to Chico Buarque, Milton Nascimento, João Gilberto, Caetano Veloso."

Faraco was born in the southern city of Alegrete. His father was an amateur musician who taught him to play the guitar at the age of ten. While Faraco was growing up, his father's military career took the family to different regions of Brazil, exposing him to many different musical traditions. He left their home in Brasília for Rio to make a living as a composer and performer. After some early success, he moved to Europe and now lives in Paris, where he has recorded several critically acclaimed albums.

"Na Casa Do Seu Humberto" (At Mr. Humberto's House) is from Faraco's first solo album, *Giranda*, released in 2000. On this bouncy *bossa nova*, he sings of times spent as a child playing at his grandparents' house.

## 3. Teresa Cristina and Grupo Semente

### Para Não Contrariar Você

artist: teh-reh-sah cris-CHEE-nah and GROO-poh seh-MEHN-chee song: pah-rah now kon-trah-ree-ar voh-seh

A devoted *carioca*, the Brazilian term for a native of Rio, Teresa Cristina has emerged as a successful *samba* singer on the local nightclub circuit. She never expected to have a career in music, working instead as a manicurist, office assistant, vendor of cosmetics and other jobs to make ends meet. Music came naturally to her; however, once she started singing at age 26, she was quickly in high demand in the Rio roots *samba* scene. Her backing band, Grupo Semente, takes its name from the bar in Rio's Lapa neighborhood where they used to meet for rehearsals. "Semente" is Portuguese for "seed."

"Para Não Contrariar Você" (To Not Contradict You) was written by Paulinho Da Viola, and it originally appeared on a tribute album to this legendary *samba* singer and composer. "Who am I?" sings Cristina above an acoustic *samba* rhythm, "To speak badly about your taste / I prefer not to talk / To not contradict you / But I would accept a kiss / If you wanted to give one to me."

## 4. Carlinhos Cor Das Aguas

### Tempo Interno

artist: kar-LEEN-yohs kor das ah-gwahs song: tem-poh een-TAIR-noh

Carlinhos Cor Das Aguas is from Salvador, a coastal city in the state of Bahia that is the epicenter of Afro-Brazilian culture. Cor Das Aguas has been performing since he was a young child, but even though he has had a long and eventful career that dates back to the 1970s, he only recently released his second album and is still not very widely known on the Brazilian music scene. That is not a reflection of his talent, however, as Cor Das Aguas writes lovely songs drawing on the full range of Bahian music traditions, and he has won numerous awards from various festivals and associations for his compositions.

“Tempo Interno” (Inner Time) is from his 2002 release *Aldeia*. The song is a meditative reflection on the importance of personal time. “I still have time to be alone / I looked inside myself / I got my place / Got the time / I got to the bottom of myself and of life / Peace is the sound of silence / Which gives light to mystery / Revealing my inner time / Bringing the secrets of the wind and the smiling breeze.”

## 5. Ceumar

### Feliz e Triste

artist: say-oo-mahr song: feh-LEEZ ee tris-chee

Ceumar is originally from the state of Minas Gerais, and her father was a well-known singer who specialized in the songs of Itanhandu, the city where she was raised. Her parents had eclectic musical tastes and Ceumar grew up listening to Brazilian legends such as Milton Nascimento, Joyce and Clara Nunes, as well as North American singer-songwriters like Joni Mitchell. After moving to São Paulo to pursue her musical career, Ceumar released two well-received albums.

“Feliz e Triste” (Happy and Sad) is from Ceumar’s fourth album, *Meu Nome*. She is often praised for her crystal clear voice, which shines through on this live, acoustic *bossa nova* track. “I think I am happy and sad / Everything I have fits in my hand / And I give it to you from my heart / I don’t need anything else / The world is my home / The sky is my shirt / Stars dress my feet.”

## 6. Toco

### Outro Lugar

artist: toh-koh song: oh-troh loo-gahr

Tomaz di Cunto, who goes by Toco, is a composer, musician and producer from São Paulo. He began playing guitar as a young boy and got his start in the music business when he was in college, working a part-time job for a television program on Brazilian music called *Ensaio*. While working on the show, he was introduced to Gilberto Gil, Caetano Veloso and other famous artists. In 1999, Toco moved to Italy and embedded himself in the thriving Brazilian music scene there. He released his first solo album, *Instalação Do Samba*, on the Milan-based label Schema Records. The album was successful enough in Europe and Japan to lead to a second album, this time produced in Rio with a band fronted by *bossa nova* guitar legend Roberto Menescal.

“Outro Lugar” (Another Place) is the title track of Toco’s second album, released in 2008. “Without waiting / Early morning arrived / I’m going to smile, I’m going to sing / Dream in other languages, dance / You will live / A new day will come again / Love.”

## 7. Katia B

### Viajei

artist: kah-chyah beh song: vee-ah-JAY

Katia B is the stage name of Rio-native Katia Bronstein, a rising star in the Brazilian pop and electronica constellation. Her grandparents emigrated to Brazil from Russia, and her mother was a jazz and *bossa nova* singer who recorded with Brazilian jazz star Egberto Gismonti. Since music was always present at home, Katia B started performing at a young age and eventually established herself on the local rock scene. A long-time friend of Bebel Gilberto, Katia B was also attracted to the fusion of Brazilian music with electronica and has created her own approach to this blossoming style. Her first album was produced by Suba, the late Serbian-born studio wizard who was also the mastermind behind Gilberto’s early work.

“Viajei” (I Traveled) is from Katia B’s 2007 album, *Espacial*. In it, she sings of losing herself in the moment with a lover, which she compares to traveling. “I don’t know yet / Of all that I would do / How much I lost myself / I don’t even want to think.”

## 8. Rosa Passos

### Pequena Música Noturna

artist: HOH-sah PAH-sahs song: peh-keh-nah MOO-see-kah noh-TOOR-nah

Rosa Passos is one of the brightest voices in Brazil’s contemporary *bossa nova* scene. A native of Bahia, Passos brings a progressive vision to her interpretations of classic compositions by *bossa nova* composers Antônio Carlos Jobim, Dorival Caymmi, João Gilberto and others.

Born into a musical family, Passos began performing publicly as a child. Her father toured with João Gilberto, a pioneer of *bossa nova* whose soft singing style and intricate guitar playing helped *bossa nova* develop into a worldwide craze in the 1960s. Passos has recorded with Yo Yo Ma, Ron Carter and Paquito D’Rivera and tours regularly in the US and Europe.

“Pequena Música Noturna” (A Little Night Music) is from Passos’ 2000 album *Moradas do Samba*. “I hear the rain beating down / All night on the roof / And the minutes dripping by / From the present to the past / One, two, four notes / Creating a song / That envelops me and comforts me.”

## 9. Alexandre Leão

### Vumbora Amar

artist: ah-leh-SHAN-dree lay-YOW song: voom-boh-rah ah-mahr

Alexandre Leão is from Salvador, Bahia, one of Brazil’s most important musical centers. When he was just 15 years old, Leão formed a duo with singer Belô Velloso (the niece of superstar siblings Caetano Veloso and Maria Bethânia) and began performing in local bars and cafes. Two years later, one of his songs was recorded by Maria Bethânia, which instantly established him as a credible songwriter. Soon his songs were being covered by other Brazilian stars such as Ivete Sangalo, Rosa Passos and Margareth Menezes. Over the years, Leão has recorded three solo albums.

“Vumbora Amar” (Let’s Go Away to Love) is from Leão’s album *Axé Babá*, released in 2005. This love song was co-written by Carlinhos Brown, one of Salvador’s most successful and well-known musicians.

## 10. Marcia Salomon

### Quando o Carnaval Chegar

artist: mahr-syah sah-loh-MOHN song: kwan-doh oh kar-nah-VAHL sheh-gahr

Marcia Salomon is a *bossa nova* singer from the small town of Londrina in the state of Paraná. She began her singing career in the 1970s, but she didn’t record her first album until 1990 when guitarist Roberto Menescal heard her singing in a Rio bar and was impressed enough to produce her

debut *Mundos e Fundos*. Since then, she has recorded two other albums, *De Lalá pra Cá* in 1997 and *Geminiana* in 2006.

“Quando o Carnaval Chegar” (When Carnival Comes) was first recorded by renowned Brazilian singer, composer and writer Chico Buarque in 1972, and is a moving tribute to the emotional release of Carnival. “Those who see me, always still, distant, are sure I can’t dance samba / I’m just saving it for when Carnival comes / I’m just watching, knowing, feeling, listening and I can’t speak / And those who see me being beaten down by life, doubts, I’ll show them / I have so much joy, delayed, muffled, stifled cries / I’m just saving it for when Carnival comes.”

## 11. Arranco de Varsóvia

### Força da Imaginação

artist: ah-hahn-koh gee vahr-SOH-vee-ah song: fahr-sah dah ee-mah-jee-nah-SOW

Founded in the 1990s by a group of passionate *samba* fans, Arranco de Varsóvia (Arranco from Warsaw) has been one of the leading forces in the current *samba* revival in Brazil. The brainchild of pianist Paulo Malaguti, who decided to form a *samba* band during a sleepless night in Japan in 1992, Arranco de Varsóvia features some of Rio’s top musicians. The group is devoted to presenting standards from the *samba* repertoire along with new compositions. Respectful to *samba* traditions, the group’s thoughtful vocal arrangements add fresh elements to this classic genre.

“Força da Imaginação” (Force of Imagination) was composed by popular Brazilian singer Caetano Veloso along with Dona Ivone Lara, a revered *samba* singer. “When the poet writes another *samba* / He creates another town / Complaining of his pain, he makes happiness / The force of imagination in the shape of a melody.”

## 12. Ana Costa with Oswaldo Cavalo

### Pra Que Pedir Perdão

artist: ah-nah KOS-tah with ohs-VAHL-doh kah-VAH-loh song: prah keh peh-GEER pehr-DOW

Ana Costa is a singer, composer and guitarist who got her start singing in the rough and tumble bars of Baixada Fluminense, a region just north of Rio de Janeiro. In 1994, she helped found the all-female *samba* group Roda de Saia, later known as O Roda. Costa also recorded backing vocals for *samba* star Martinho Da Vila and others. In 2004, she joined Da Vila’s daughter Mart’nália’s band, with whom she toured Brazil, the US and Europe. Eventually, Costa began writing songs with Mart’nália and Zélia Duncan, both influential women in contemporary Brazilian music, carrying the *samba* torch for future generations.

In “Pra Que Pedir Perdão” (Why Ask for Forgiveness), Costa sings, “Throwing away life in another bout of drinking / Oh, honestly, it’s better if you forget me / I promised you the world / But I didn’t want to hurt you / I can’t resist the cheapest bars / Why should I ask you for forgiveness, if I can’t even forgive myself?”

## Coffee Pavê

4 cans sweetened condensed milk  
4 tablespoons butter  
1 cup of strong coffee (preferably Brazilian coffee)  
30 butter cookies

### First Layer:

Combine 2 cans of sweetened condensed milk and 2 tablespoons of butter in a heavy pot and stir continuously over medium heat, bringing to a boil. Continue stirring for two minutes or until mixture becomes so thick, you can't see the bottom of the pan. Remove from heat and scoop out of pot into a shallow glass serving pan.

### Second Layer:

After the 1st layer is completely cooled, break 3/4 of cookies (about 23 cookies) into small pieces and spread over the first layer so it's completely covered with cookies.

### Third Layer:

Combine 2 cans of sweetened condensed milk, 2 tablespoons of butter and 1 cup of coffee in a heavy pot and stir continuously over medium heat, bringing to a boil. Continue stirring for two minutes or until mixture becomes so thick, you can't see the bottom of the pan. Remove from heat, scoop out of pot and cover the layer of cookie crumbs completely.

### Fourth Layer:

Crumble the remaining cookies into a fine powder and spread over the top to decorate the dessert.

After the dessert cools, cover with foil and chill for 1 hour in the freezer, followed by a second hour in the refrigerator. Leave in the refrigerator until ready to serve. Makes eight servings.

If you want to complete your *Brazilian Café* experience, make yourself a *cafézinho*. Boil one cup of water in a pan, dissolve in ample amounts of sugar and add one heaping tablespoon of finely ground coffee. Pour through a coffee filter and serve in a small cup.