

Foreword



EMBASSY OF
BRAZIL

Brazilian popular music has a peculiar flavour. It springs from diverse sources: the melody line of the "modinha" introduced by the Portuguese settlers, the native Amerindian legends and the rhythms and percussion brought from Africa.

The richness of Brazilian folklore is a great inspiration for our composers. When Antonio Carlos Jobim wrote "Saudade do Brasil" he wished to express what music means to the Brazilian people. Music is without doubt the people's main attribute, their means of expression.

The programme chosen by Carlos Barbosa-Lima reveals the beauty which can be universally appreciated in the work of Antonio Carlos Jobim, Laurindo Almeida, Heitor Villa-Lobos and Radamés Gnattali. Carlos Barbosa-Lima is one of the greatest Brazilian guitarists of our times, with a long and successful career spanning more than fifty years. Born in Sao Paulo, he began studying the guitar at the age of seven, and was soon introduced to one of the fathers of Bossa Nova, the composer and guitarist Luiz Bonfá, who in turn referred the young musician to his own tutor, Isaías Savio.

Before long, Barbosa-Lima was studying with the most distinguished classical guitarist of the twentieth century, Andrés Segovia. By the age of 12, Barbosa-Lima was already performing in Sao Paulo and Río de Janeiro, as well as recording and appearing on Brazilian television.

Tonight, alongside the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Simon Wright, Carlos Barbosa-Lima returns to London to perform as a guitar soloist in this concert entitled "Grand Brazilian Masters". The concert forms part of a diverse cultural programme, Brasil Mayfair, a series of events bringing the richness and diversity of Brazilian culture to London, proudly supported by the Embassy of Brazil.

The concert covers classical and popular music, recreating the works of the best Brazilian composers in both fields. The programme includes pieces arranged for guitar by Carlos Barbosa-

Lima, Byron Yasui and Paulo Jobim. Antonio Carlos Jobim's music is represented by three beautiful pieces: SAUDADE DO BRASIL, MEU AMIGO RADAMÉS and O BOTO, the latter based on the legend of a white dolphin turning into a handsome man. Later in the programme the audience will enjoy Laurindo Almeida's AMAZONIA and CHORO E BATUQUE, two creations whose inspiration lies in the traditions of Brazilian popular music, and the beautiful A LENDA DO CABOCLO by Heitor Villa-Lobos. There is also Radamés Gnattali's CONCERTO DE COPACABANA, one of the most colourful Latin American concertos for guitar and orchestra of the 20th century.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural

Society (LACCS) for organising what is sure to be a wonderful event, revealing the soul of Brazil through music which can genuinely be described as unique. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish LACCS a very happy twentieth anniversary.

Many private sponsors, in particular VARIG and Banco do Brasil/Western Union have provided support, enabling this superb collection of Brazilian music to be presented to a British audience. I thank them all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'José Mauricio Bustani'.

José Mauricio Bustani.
Ambassador
London 11th May 2004

