

# RAFAEL PICCOLOTTO DE LIMA

Brazilian Composer, Arranger, Orchestrator, Conductor & Music Director

Latin Grammy-nominated composer working across orchestral music, jazz orchestra, big band, Brazilian music, chamber music, interdisciplinary productions, and collaborative large ensemble practices.

Projects developed internationally through collaborations across the Americas and Europe.

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Rafael Piccolotto de Lima is a Brazilian composer, arranger, orchestrator, conductor, music director, producer, and educator whose work explores the intersection between orchestral music, jazz orchestra, big band, Brazilian music, chamber music, improvisation, and collaborative large ensemble practices. Nominated for the Latin Grammy as a classical composer at the age of 27, Rafael has developed projects involving symphony orchestras, jazz orchestras, chamber ensembles, recordings, interdisciplinary productions, television broadcasts, and contemporary Brazilian music collaborations developed internationally across the Americas and Europe.

His works, arrangements, and productions have involved artists such as Chick Corea, Terence Blanchard, Brad Mehldau, Gregory Porter, Ivan Lins, João Bosco, Hamilton de Holanda, Romero Lubambo, Mônica Salmaso, Liniker, Alceu Valença, Vanessa da Mata, Toninho Ferragutti, Chico César, Mariana Aydar, Martinho da Vila, Alcione, Arnaldo Antunes, Tim Bernardes, Dora Morelenbaum, and many others.

Rafael's work includes collaborations with institutions and ensembles such as the Brasil Jazz Sinfônica, Metropole Orkest, Symphony of the Americas, Symphonic Jazz Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra, BMI/NY Jazz Orchestra, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, National Sawdust, University of Miami Frost School of Music, TV Cultura, and SESC São Paulo.

## CURRENT ARTISTIC PROJECTS

## **ORQUESTRA URBANA**

Founded in São Paulo in 2014, Orquestra Urbana is a Brazilian jazz orchestra / big band dedicated to original compositions, contemporary Brazilian orchestral music, jazz orchestra language, and hybrid large ensemble practices.

The ensemble brings together musicians active in the orchestral, jazz, and instrumental music scenes of São Paulo and Brazil, including performers and educators connected to important institutions and conservatories such as Tatuí.

The group has presented concerts in venues and series including Sala São Paulo, SESC São Paulo, SESC Campinas, and the SESC Contemporary Concert Series, and released the album “Pelos Ares.”

Selected projects include compositions dedicated to Hermeto Pascoal and Moacir Santos, commissions connected to the University of Colorado, and collaborations involving Brazilian contemporary instrumental music and symphonic jazz writing.

## **FORRÓ SEM PALAVRAS**

Created in New York in 2018, Forró Sem Palavras is a Brazilian chamber orchestra project exploring the intersection between northeastern Brazilian musical traditions, chamber music, orchestral writing, improvisation, and jazz-influenced ensemble practices.

The project combines strings, winds, and a traditional Brazilian rhythm section in flexible formations ranging from chamber ensembles to symphonic collaborations.

Selected presentations include National Sawdust, Shapeshifter Lab, Toronto Jazz Festival, Théâtre de Verdure in Montreal, Instrumental SESC Brasil, Lula Lounge, collaborations with the Campinas Municipal Symphony Orchestra, and performances with guest artists including Toninho Ferragutti, Edu Ribeiro, Paulo Braga, Kleber Almeida, and Nicolas Krassik.

## **RAFAEL PICCOLOTTO DE LIMA CHAMBER PROJECT**

New York-based chamber ensemble dedicated to hybrid orchestral writing connecting jazz orchestra language, chamber music textures, improvisation, and Brazilian musical influences.

The ensemble was presented in venues including Dizzy’s Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Rockwood Music Hall, and Shapeshifter Lab.

A live album featuring guitarist Romero Lubambo was released by Sunnyside Records with liner notes by Wynton Marsalis.

# EDUCATION

## Doctor of Musical Arts in Jazz Composition

University of Miami - Frost School of Music  
2016

## Master of Music in Studio Jazz Writing

University of Miami - Frost School of Music  
2013

## Bachelor Degrees

UNICAMP - University of Campinas (Brazil)  
2011

- Classical Composition
- Brazilian Jazz Studies / Popular Music Performance

# SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

- Latin GRAMMY nomination as Best Classical Composer (2013)
- 13 DownBeat Awards across composition, arrangement, conducting, and recording production
- ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award (2014, 2015)
- BMI Jazz Composers Workshop Showcase Concert Selection (2017, 2018)
- ISJAC Symposium Official Selection (2017)
- George Duke Commissioning Competition - Second Place (2016)
- JEN Student Composition Showcase Award (2014)
- Medalha Carlos Gomes (Brazil, 2016)
- FAPESP Research Fellowship
- Ricardo Rizek Latin American Composition Award - First Prize (2009)

# SELECTED ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

## INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

Chick Corea  
Terence Blanchard  
Brad Mehldau  
Gregory Porter  
Romero Lubambo  
Eric Owens  
John Secada  
Bruce Hornsby  
Steve Miller  
Brian Lynch  
John Daversa

## **BRAZILIAN ARTISTS**

Ivan Lins  
João Bosco  
Hamilton de Holanda  
Mônica Salmaso  
Liniker  
Alceu Valença  
Vanessa da Mata  
Toninho Ferragutti  
Chico César  
Mariana Aydar  
Martinho da Vila  
Alcione  
Arnaldo Antunes  
Tim Bernardes  
Dora Morelenbaum  
Paula Morelenbaum  
Mestrinho  
Céu  
Diogo Nogueira  
Renato Borghetti  
Filó Machado  
Zélia Duncan

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## **SELECTED ORCHESTRAS, JAZZ ORCHESTRAS & LARGE ENSEMBLES**

Brasil Jazz Sinfônica (São Paulo, Brazil)  
Metropole Orkest (Netherlands)  
Symphony of the Americas (Florida, USA)  
Symphonic Jazz Orchestra (Los Angeles, USA)  
National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica (Costa Rica)  
Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra (Miami, USA)  
Campinas Municipal Symphony Orchestra (Campinas, Brazil)  
Orquestra Sinfônica Brasileira - OSB (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)  
Orquestra Sinfônica de Guarulhos (Brazil)  
Orquestra Sinfônica de Santo André (Brazil)  
FIU Symphony Orchestra (Miami, USA)  
BMI/NY Jazz Orchestra (New York, USA)  
Orquestra Urbana (São Paulo, Brazil)  
Rafael Piccolotto de Lima Chamber Project (New York, USA)  
Rafael Piccolotto de Lima Jazz Orchestra (Brazil / USA)

## **SELECTED CONDUCTING & MUSIC DIRECTION**

2025 - Hamilton de Holanda with Campinas Municipal Symphony Orchestra (Brazil)

2024 - João Bosco with Campinas Municipal Symphony Orchestra (Brazil)

2024 - Festival de Música Contemporânea Brasileira - principal orchestral concert and music direction (Brazil)

2019-present - Orquestra Urbana (Brazil)

2018-present - Forró Sem Palavras (USA / Canada / Brazil)

2018 - Symphony of the Americas - "Orchestra Meets Jazz!" featuring the premiere of "RAIAR: Lullaby of the Moon" (USA)

2018-2019 - Mosaic Orchestra (New York, USA)

2017-2019 - Rafael Piccolotto de Lima Chamber Project (New York, USA)

2017-2018 - BMI/NY Jazz Orchestra readings (New York, USA)

2015-2016 - Rafael Piccolotto de Lima Large Ensemble (Miami, USA)

2014-present - Orquestra Urbana (Brazil)

2011-2016 - Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra assistant conductor (Miami, USA)

2011 and 2015 - UNICAMP Symphony Orchestra (Brazil)

2009 and 2011 - UNICAMP Collective Orchestra (Brazil)

## **SELECTED COMMISSIONS, ARRANGEMENTS & ORCHESTRAL PRODUCTIONS**

### **BRASIL JAZZ SINFÔNICA**

Ongoing arranger, orchestrator, and collaborator for symphonic tributes, orchestral productions, jazz symphonic concerts, and television broadcasts involving artists such as Ivan Lins, João Bosco, Liniker, Vanessa da Mata, Tim Bernardes, Dora Morelenbaum, Mônica Salmaso, Toninho Ferragutti, Alceu Valença, Mariana Aydar, Mestrinho, Chico César, Martinho da Vila, Alcione, Arnaldo Antunes, Céu, Paula Morelenbaum, Diogo Nogueira, Geraldo Azevedo, Renato Borghetti, and many others.

Projects presented in venues including Sala São Paulo, Memorial da América Latina, Blue Note São Paulo, and Teatro B32, with broadcasts through TV Cultura.

### **SELECTED INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS**

2019 - Romero Lubambo live recording project at Jazz at Lincoln Center

2017 - Arrangements for Fleurine Mehlidau featuring Brad Mehldau

2016 - "7 Masks" for Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra

2016 - "Trickster" for Symphonic Jazz Orchestra

2015 - Costa Rica National Orchestra collaborations

2014 - Metropole Orkest Arrangers Workshop

2013 - "Spanish Suite" featuring Chick Corea, Terence Blanchard, and Eric Owens

2013 - "Abertura Jobiniana" for National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica

2011-2016 - Various orchestral, jazz orchestra, and chamber music commissions in the United States and Brazil

## **SELECTED FESTIVALS, VENUES & PERFORMANCE SPACES**

### **FESTIVALS & SERIES**

Toronto Jazz Festival  
Instrumental SESC Brasil  
Festival de Música Contemporânea Brasileira  
Matinais da Sala São Paulo  
Montreal Forró Festival  
Forró New York Weekend

### **VENUES & PERFORMANCE SPACES**

Carnegie Hall - Weill Recital Hall (New York, USA)  
Jazz at Lincoln Center - Dizzy's Club (New York, USA)  
National Sawdust (New York, USA)  
Sala São Paulo (São Paulo, Brazil)  
TivoliVredenburg (Netherlands)  
Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (Miami, USA)  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts (Florida, USA)  
The DiMenna Center for Classical Music (New York, USA)  
Blue Note São Paulo (Brazil)  
Rockwood Music Hall (New York, USA)  
Shapeshifter Lab (New York, USA)  
Brooklyn Public Library (New York, USA)  
Théâtre de Verdure (Montreal, Canada)  
Memorial da América Latina (São Paulo, Brazil)  
Teatro B32 (São Paulo, Brazil)

## **DISCOGRAPHY & AUDIOVISUAL PROJECTS**

### **LEADER / DIRECTOR**

“Pelos Ares” - Rafael Piccolotto de Lima & Orquestra Urbana (2016)

“Live at Dizzy’s” - Romero Lubambo & Rafael Piccolotto Chamber Orchestra (released 2021)

“Danças da Quarentena” - hybrid online orchestra project

“Transfigurações Brasileiras” - Rafael de Lima Quarteto (2012)

“CARUWA” - CARUWA (2008)

## **SELECTED PERFORMER / COLLABORATOR RECORDINGS**

“ID” - Mario Campos & Coletivo Orquestral (2009) - saxophonist

“Sounds of the Season” - University of Miami Jazz Department (2013) - arranger and recording engineer

## **SELECTED COLLABORATIONS**

“Brazilian Dream” - Fleurine Mehdau featuring Brad Mehdau (arrangements)

“Bossa Nova Sinfônico” - National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica

Various orchestral broadcasts, livestream recordings, and audiovisual productions involving Orquestra Urbana, Forró Sem Palavras, Brasil Jazz Sinfônica, Jazz at Lincoln Center, National Sawdust, and Instrumental SESC Brasil

## **AUDIOVISUAL & BROADCAST PRODUCTIONS**

PBS broadcasts - “Jazz and the Philharmonic”

TV Cultura orchestral broadcasts and livestream productions with Brasil Jazz Sinfônica

National Sawdust concert recordings

Instrumental SESC Brasil concert and documentary

Jazz at Lincoln Center livestream recordings

# TEACHING, MENTORSHIP & EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

2020-present - Criadores Musicais online educational platform, courses, and mentorship programs

2020-present - Online classes, lectures, mentorships, and educational programs in composition, arrangement, creative process, orchestral writing, Brazilian music, and jazz orchestra practices

2017-present - Forró New York educational and cultural activities (USA and Canada)

2011-2016 - Jazz Composition Teaching Assistant - Frost School of Music, University of Miami

2008-present - Private lessons in music theory, arrangement, composition, and improvisation

2008 - Brazilian Jazz Ensemble Teaching Assistant - UNICAMP

2006-2007 - Saxophone Teaching Assistant - UNICAMP

## RESEARCH & ACADEMIC WORK

### Doctoral Dissertation

“Blurred Distinctions; Beyond Third Stream – A Study in Composition of Confluent Hybrid Musical Styles: The Amalgam of Jazz and Classical Concert Music”

University of Miami - Frost School of Music

Advisor: Gary Lindsay

Research focused on hybrid musical languages connecting jazz, orchestral music, improvisation, chamber music, and contemporary concert music through the analysis of composers Maria Schneider, Vince Mendoza, and John Psathas.

### FAPESP Research Fellowship

“The Brazilian Big Band – Samba works from Nailor Azevedo (Proveta) for Banda Mantiqueira”

Research involving musical analysis, interviews, and historical cataloging focused on Brazilian jazz orchestra traditions.

# **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

2014-2015 - ProAC Grant (Brazil) for the recording of Rafael Piccolotto de Lima & Orquestra Urbana

2011 - ProAC Grant (Brazil) for the Rafael de Lima Quartet São Paulo tour

2011 - FICC Grant (Brazil) for the recording of the Rafael de Lima Quartet album

2008 - FICC Grant (Brazil) for the recording of the CARUWA album

2013-2016 - ASCAP Henry Mancini Institute Scholarship / Composer Fellowship

2011-2013 - ASCAP Henry Mancini Institute Scholarship / Composer Fellowship

2013-2016 - Frost School of Music tuition waiver (Doctorate)

2011-2013 - Frost School of Music tuition waiver (Master's)

2010-2011 - FAPESP Scholarship for research on Brazilian big band language

# **ARCHIVING, MUSIC PREPARATION & PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE**

2011-2016 - Henry Mancini Institute Librarian / Music Preparation Assistant

Studio recording, score preparation, orchestral production assistance, recording engineering, audiovisual production, livestream supervision, and archival work connected to projects in Brazil and the United States.

# **WORKSHOPS, FESTIVALS & CLINICS AS PRESENTER**

## **Brazil**

2015 - UNICAMP Big Band Performance Workshop

2015 - SESC São Paulo - Big Band Composition & Arrangement Workshop

2020-present - Online lectures, masterclasses, courses, and mentorship programs through Criadores Musicais and independent educational activities

## **United States**

2014 - JEN Conference (Jazz Education Network) - Composer Showcase

2017 - ISJAC Symposium - Composer Showcase

# **WORKSHOPS, FESTIVALS & CLINICS AS STUDENT**

## **Brazil**

2005 and 2007 - Curitiba Summer Workshops

2005 - Ourinhos Winter Festival

2003 and 2004 - Londrina Winter Festival

2002 - Itajaí Summer Festival

## **North America**

2012 - NYU / ASCAP Film Scoring Workshop

2006 - IASJ (International Association of Schools of Jazz) Annual Meeting - UNICAMP representative

2006 - Jamey Aebersold Jazz Camp

2006 - Humber College Residence Week (auditor)

## **Europe**

2014 - Metropole Orkest Arrangers Workshop

# PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Recording Academy (GRAMMY Awards) - voting member

The Latin Recording Academy (Latin GRAMMY Awards) - voting member

ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers)

ABRAMUS

# COMPLETE AWARDS LIST

2018 – BMI Jazz Composers Workshop Showcase Concert Selection: “Raiair”

2017 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Arrangement Winner (“Jumble”)

2017 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Studio Recording Engineer Winner

2017 – ISJAC Symposium Official Selection: “Negative Space”

2017 – BMI Jazz Composers Workshop Showcase Concert Selection: “Negative Space”

2016 – Medalha Carlos Gomes (Brazil)

2016 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Outstanding Studio Orchestra Arrangement (“Spanish Suite,” featuring Chick Corea and Terence Blanchard)

2016 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Outstanding Latin Ensemble (Rafael Piccolotto de Lima Large Ensemble)

2016 – George Duke Commissioning Competition (Symphonic Jazz Orchestra): Second Place (“Trickster”)

2015 – ASMAC Pete Rugolo BIG BAND Arranging and Composing Competition: Honorary Award (“Abertura SubUrbana”)

2015 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Best Small Ensemble Composition (“Especiarias Búlgaras”)

2015 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Outstanding Latin Ensemble (Frost Salsa Orchestra)

2015 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Outstanding Studio Recording Engineer

2015 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Outstanding Live Recording Engineer

2015 – ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award (“Balance Shift”)

2014 – ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award (“Fables of Mingus”)

2014 – JEN Student Composition Showcase Award Winner (“Quebra-cabeças”)

2014 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Outstanding Large Ensemble Composition (“Brookmeyer Motives”)

2014 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Best Studio Recording Engineer

2014 – Brazilian Press Award (“Bossa Nova Sinfônico”)

2013 – Latin GRAMMY nomination as Best Classical Composer (“Abertura Jobiniana”)

2013 – ARS Brasilis National Contest for Arrangers in Tribute to Milton Nascimento: Third Place

2013 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Best Latin Ensemble (Frost Recording Ensemble)

2013 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Best Classical Ensemble (Henry Mancini Institute Chamber Ensemble)

2012 – DownBeat Graduate Student Award: Outstanding Small Ensemble Composition (“Transfigurações Brasileiras”)

2011 – Selected artist for the RUMOS national program sponsored by ITAU Cultural

2010 – Selected conductor for the Prelúdio competition (TV Cultura)

2009 – First Prize, Ricardo Rizek Latin American Composition Award (“Pelos Ares”)

2008-2009 – Winner, FURNAS Geração Musical III Award (Rafael de Lima Quartet)