

Pau Brasil & Ensemble SP &
Renato Braz

VILLA LOBOS SUPERSTAR

Stunt Records



Stunt Records CD
STUCD 17042



This CD will go straight to your heart, whether you like Brazilian music, romantic classical music, or just enjoy outstanding musicians playing outstanding music.

The Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959) is practically a national hero in his native country. If you listen to Brazilian composers from the past 70 years, you will find that they all borrow from Villa-Lobos: Jobim, Nascimento, De Moreira, Lobo, Gil and all the rest were born with Villa-Lobos's DNA in their blood. His status is iconic. One hears his music everywhere – in parks, on the beach, in classical concert halls, at a music festival or in the supermarket, the samba class in an impoverished favela borrows from him, and at the same time his music flows from the balcony of a luxury apartment. Villa-Lobos is popular all over. His music represents quality and versatility, exclusiveness and sophistication. He was born of the people but speaks to everyone. Villa-Lobos is an extraordinary hero, mainly because he is a musical giant in a country where classical music occupies only a small niche. Somewhat like being a huge sports idol in a sport that most fans would never play.

And what was his special talent? First of all, he wrote wonderful tunes – ribbons of notes that feel natural to every music lover. He also succeeded in combining the light-footed, sensual and elegant Brazilian rhythms with neo-romantic, semi-classical European harmonies in a manner that appeals to both sides. Melodically, Villa-Lobos' music has a touch of melancholy, but then he throws in a major chord that opens up the music, and suddenly you are teleported to the beaches of the Copacabana with the roaring sea in front of you. He communicates in a universal language encompassing all of Brazil: euphoric enthusiasm, cultural variety, extreme contrasts, unlimited imagination, wildness, shamelessness,

sentimentality, civilized simplicity, sensuality, rhythm... a language as important as the meaning in words.

Over the years, the music of Villa-Lobos has been interpreted by musicians and orchestras of all sizes. Now one of Brazil's oldest and most respected jazz/fusion groups, Pau Brasil, offer their warm acoustic version of Villa-Lobos anno 2016. It is done tenderly, respectfully and with love. Rather than playing the music in updated interpretations, Pau Brasil have chosen to keep close to the original compositions without forfeiting the option of improvising – which earned them a Brazilian award for the year's best instrumental album.

Pau Brasil was founded by saxophonist Teco Cardoso, pianist Nelson Ayres, bassist Rodolfo Stroeter, guitarist Paulo Belinati and drummer Ricardo Mosca, and it is still one of Brazil's most outstanding groups focusing on instrumental and present day music. The group's creative collaboration began in the 1970's, and they have developed a distinct musical identity by incorporating all the traditional Brazilian rhythms and by feely moving in and out of indigenous, primitive and modern styles. Their collaboration with the Ensemble SP string quartet and vocalist Renato Braz on VILLA-LOBOS SUPERSTAR gives the music an even wider wingspan. The musicians in Pau Brasil and the string quartet share the exact same rhythmic feeling creating a perfect unit.

It is difficult to isolate any particular high point on this beautiful album, because all of Villa-Lobos' "hits" are included, but Lundu Da Marquesa De Santos has its own special insistently tender mood – the best proof that Heitor Villa-Lobos' music stays as permanently green as the green in the Brazilian flag. Join the journey into an overwhelmingly beautiful musical world, and continue life with a happy smile on your lips.

Nelson Ayres (p), Teco Cardoso (sax), Paulo Bellinati (vln), Rodolfo Stroeter (b), Ricardo Mosca (d) & Ensemble SP Marcelo Jaffé (vliola), Betina Stegman, Nelson Rios (vln), Robert Suetholz (cello), Renato Braz (voc)

Bachianas Brasileiras N° 4 / Prelúdio / Bachianas Brasileiras N° 4 / Ária (Cantiga) / A Lenda Do Caboclo / Cair Da Tarde / Bachianas Brasileiras N° 5 / Ária (Cantilena) / Bachianas Brasileiras N° 5 / Dança (Martelo) / Modinha (Na Solidão Da Minha Vida) / Quarteto De Cordas / Movimento / Lundu Da Marquesa De Santos / Sexteto Místico / Prelúdio N°3 / Choro Típico N° 1.

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