

SUSAN PEREIRA & SABOR BRASIL

Vocalist, pianist, percussionist, composer and arranger Susan Pereira, a New York native, has been one of the most versatile musicians on that city's Brazilian music scene since 1983. While deeply rooted in traditional Brazilian styles, her broad background in jazz and world music has enabled her to develop a distinct musical personality. Fluent in Portuguese and French, she is a singer who blends a silky, rich tone with superior vocal technique and is a particularly skilled lyric interpreter and scat singer. Susan's percussive piano style is enhanced by her mastery of complex Brazilian rhythms and her original Brazilian jazz compositions are a popular part of her performances.

Formed in 1991 by Susan and Brazilian drummer Vanderlei Pereira, Sabor Brasil has established itself as one of the most popular Brazilian ensembles in the New York area by fusing traditional Brazilian styles with contemporary jazz. Susan Pereira and Sabor Brasil regularly thrill audiences with their dynamic performances that draw upon influences ranging from hot *samba* to cool *bossa nova*, from the elegance of *chorinho* to the exotic rhythms of Bahia and modern Brazilian jazz. Their debut recording *Tudo Azul* (Riony Records) was released in 2007 and features the core band joined by special guests Claudio Roditi on trumpet, Hendrik Meurkens on harmonica, Romero Lubambo on guitar and Luis Bonilla on trombone. Produced by Susan, the CD includes five of her songs and one each by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Milton Nascimento, among other selections.

Since its inception Sabor Brasil has appeared at many of New York's leading venues, including Lincoln Center, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Iridium, B.B. King's, Birdland, Smoke, Zinc Bar and The Kitano, among many others. The band has also appeared at a variety of festivals and special events, including the Rochester International Jazz Festival, the Savannah Jazz Festival, the Hartford Jazz Festival, New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJPAC) "Sounds of the City" Festival and Central Park's Harlem Meer Music Festival, among others.

Apart from Sabor Brasil, Susan has performed at the Kennedy Center, Sweet Rhythm and the Syracuse Jazzfest with Laura Dreyer and Mysterious Encounter and with Ben Sher and Tudo Bem at the Blue Note in New York. In Rio de Janeiro she was the special invited guest of the Prosper Bank Jazz series at Armazém Digital Leblon. She has sung with Brazilian guitarist Nelson Faria and appeared often with Brazilian pianist Dom Salvador in New York at The River Café and The Water Club. An original member of the percussion ensembles Grupo Batucada and Samba Novo – playing *surdo* in both and singing lead vocals in Samba Novo – she performed with Grupo Batucada and Jaco Pastorius at the Blue Note and Seventh Avenue South. Other engagements include opening for Ruben Blades and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band at the Lone Star Café and the Bright Moments Jazz Festival; and at Lincoln Center, SOB's, Nell's and Roseland, among many other New York venues and special events.

As a percussionist, Susan was invited to play at New York's Village Gate with Airtó Moreira and Flora Purim in an all-star band that included Tito Puente and Giovanni Hidalgo, and in Rio de Janeiro with the São Clemente Samba School in the final Carnival competitions of 1987 and 1988. She has taught master classes at the University of Delaware and Rutgers University and is an official endorser of LP Percussion.

As a studio musician Susan has composed, arranged and recorded for OMNI Music and written arrangements and played percussion on the vocal group String of Pearls' CDs *S.O.P. New York – Brazil*, Vols. 1 & 2 (Alfa Records). She sang, played and also co-arranged the percussion on saxophonist/composer Laura Dreyer's CD *Mysterious Encounter* (Lavasphere Records). Other recordings include Sarah Pillow's *Remixes* (Buckyball Music); Ruben Rada's *Montevideo*, (Big World Music); Val Green's *Brazilian Tapestry* (EMIXX Jazz); Miguel Kertsman's *Gravity Tunnel* (Proxima Records); Tom Briggs's *Moonlight* (SaturnDisc); Sue Maskaleris's *Unbreakable Heart* (Jazilian Records) and Cryptic Soup's *Salty Pretzel Dog Logic* (Dental Records).

Susan studied voice with Jeannie Goffi, Ann Ruckert and Charles Walker; piano with Kenny Barron, Jill McManus, Michael Abbott, Joseph Kahn and Milton Kraus; arranging and composition with Don Sebesky and Bill Barron; and percussion with Cyro Baptista, Manoel Monteiro, Abraham Adzenyah and Robert Levin. She is a *cum laude* graduate of Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, where she earned a B.A. in Music and English with High Honors in Music.

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