

# Beyond Bossa Nova -

## Romantic Brazilian Music for Flute and Piano

Brazil's rich musical heritage extends beyond Bossa Nova. Before the "Girl from Ipanema" made us swoon with desire, there was already a distinct classical music presence in the country. That part of Brazil's rich musical tradition is on display in the debut recording by flutist **Guilherme Andreas** and pianist **Gianne Ge Zhu**. The Polymnia Records release date is March 30, 2022.

### [Teaser](#)

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**Beyond Bossa Nova** tells the story of romantic classical music from Brazil through the voices of composers of all races, genders, and orientations. Each composer was deeply influenced by composers from the Western European classical music tradition that was established by Johannes Brahms, Richard Wagner and Caesar Franck.

Though it always contains its own specific sound and Brazilian sensibility, Brazil's classical music also merges the Western European traditions into South American music and culture.

"My fascination for Brazilian classical music started when I was a child and influenced by my father, I'd spend hours and hours listening to his box of recordings of Choros and Bachianas by Villa Lobos. My father was especially protective of his CDs and LPs, so I'd listen to them privately, when he wasn't around.

**Beyond Bossa Nova** is the result of my devotion to Brazilian classical music, and the hope that classical musical audiences, and all audiences in fact, become more aware of this music from Brazil.

This CD presents repertoire that is unfamiliar to people even in my own country, so this recording is my offering not only to the world, but also to my fellow Brazilians." (*Guilherme Andreas*)

**Beyond Bossa Nova** is also available for download on Spotify, iTunes, Amazon Music, Google Play, Tidal and other streaming platforms. <https://smarturl.it/BeyondBossaNova>

Notes by David Srebnik <https://www.allartispersonal.com/>

## BIO

**Guilherme Andreas** is a classical flutist, educator, singer, music director-arranger and Bubble tea lover. One of his first musical memories was showing up at choir rehearsals conducted by his father, where he learned the soprano and alto parts on his own, and according to his mother, sang louder than everyone else.

At age 22, he won the principal flute position with the Brazilian Marines Wind Symphony in Rio de Janeiro – his first professional music job, where he performed throughout South America. After surviving the unending and, at times, tortuous shouting of his Marine Drill Sergeant, Guilherme gained the confidence to face anything that comes with being a professional musician.

Andreas received 1st Prize in multiple competitions as both soloist and chamber musician. One competition led him to receive a scholarship to attend James Madison University in Virginia. During his graduate studies, he performed the Reinecke Flute Concerto with the University's Orchestra.

Andreas continued his graduate studies at the Peabody Institute of Music in Baltimore, Maryland. A highpoint of his time at Peabody was his performance of the Nielsen Flute Concerto with the Peabody Symphony Orchestra.

Andreas has been an active performer throughout the U-S, and is currently based in New York, where he dedicates his time to teaching, and to discovering lesser-known composers whose music expresses extreme ranges of emotions and demands tremendous virtuosity.

[www.guilhermeandreas.com](http://www.guilhermeandreas.com)

### Recording Information (*track listings, brief composer bios*)

**Nocturne - Ary Ferreira (1905-1973)** Brazilian flutist and composer Ary Ferreira was an important musical figure in Rio de Janeiro. During his time, South American composers held a fascination with French arts, culture and especially with music. Ary Ferreira was under the influence of the impressionist music of Ravel and Debussy – he was, like others, drawn to the pastel colors, and ambiguous and unresolved harmonies.

**Sonata in A Major, Op. 14 - Leopoldo Miguéz (1850 – 1902)** I. Allegro - Grandioso II. Andante espressivo III. Scherzo - Presto non molto IV. Vivace. Leopoldo Miguéz, studied at the Paris Conservatoire under Emile Durand, Debussy's composition teacher and mentor. The influences of French and German composers like Cesar Frank and Richard Wagner can be heard in his music's thicker textures. His "Violin Sonata in A Major, Opus 14" was premiered and

performed by the composer playing the violin part at the Beethoven Club in Rio de Janeiro in 1886. This is my transcription for Flute and Piano.

**Oriental - Pattapio Silva (1880-190)** Can you imagine a Black flutist being successful in the early 1900's? There was at least one - composer and flutist Pattapio Silva. Silva was an innovator and visionary who saw the flute as a powerful instrument that could be celebrated both in Europe and in South America.

**Nostalgia - José Siqueira (1907-1985)** José Siqueira was a prolific composer and conductor in Brazil. "Nostalgia" evokes the sentiment that each of us can understand all too well: the experience of feeling homesick. Siqueira wrote this work while exiled in Russia: he had been accused of being a communist spy while living under one of Brazil's many dictatorships. The main melody of "Nostalgia" reaches a special place or moment in time we're not able to reach anymore, and yet, the musical sentiment still expresses hope. Sadly, Siqueira passed away in Russia one year before the dictatorship ended in Brazil.

**Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 (Aria - Cantilena) - Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959)** Heitor Villa-Lobos was a Brazilian composer, conductor, cellist and guitarist, and is considered one of the most important composers of the 20th-century. The Aria from "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5" is his best-known composition. It showcases Villa-Lobos, a master craftsman, who could seamlessly merge Brazilian music, folk melodies and harmonies with Bach's intricate counterpoint technique. Originally written for 8 cellos and soprano, this is my transcription for flute and piano.

**The Last Song - Clarice Assad (b. 1978)** The Brazilian-American composer, pianist, arranger, and singer, Clarice Assad, is one of the most important living composers of our generation. Assad originally wrote "The Last Song" for cellist Yo-Yo Ma and made this arrangement for flute and piano for this recording. Written just before the world collapsed with news of the COVID pandemic, the melody is filled with melancholy and passion, taking each listener to their own personal feelings of reverence for life and music.

