Airto Moreira & Ricardo Bacelar

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Biography

Early Life

Airto Moreira & Ricardo Bacelar is a Brazilian recording partnership bringing together two established musicians. Airto Moreira was born in Itaiópolis in 1941, grew up in Curitiba, and became a professional percussionist, drummer and singer at thirteen.[1] Ricardo Bacelar, born in Fortaleza, began learning music at five and working professionally at fourteen. His early experience encompassed touring, studio sessions, advertising music, jazz, classical music and Brazilian popular styles.[2] Their partnership developed around recording projects at Bacelar's Jasmin Studio in Fortaleza.

Career

Before their collaboration, Moreira established an international career with Miles Davis, Weather Report and Return to Forever. Bacelar spent eleven years with Brazilian rock group Hanoi Hanoi, subsequently developing a solo discography including In Natura (2000), Sebastiana (2018) and Congênito (2022), and founding Jasmin Studio and Jasmin Music.[1][3]

Their joint album Maracanós emerged from Bacelar's work with Moreira and Flora Purim on other recording and film projects. During a subsequent visit to Fortaleza, the two musicians composed and played together in the studio. Purim contributed vocals to "Voo da Tarde"; Liduíno Pitombeira supplied string arrangements, with participation by the Kalimera String Quartet.[4] Jasmin Music released the eight-track, approximately 36-minute album on April 24, 2026.[5]

Musical Style

The partnership combines Brazilian rhythmic traditions with contemporary jazz, improvisation and electronic experimentation. Percussion and piano anchor predominantly instrumental music enriched by synthesizers, acoustic ensembles and contrasting textures.[6] The credits for "Mestre Novo da Guiné" illustrate the range: Moreira plays percussion, while Bacelar contributes voice, acoustic piano, Fender Rhodes, Hammond organ, guitar, samples and modular synthesizers. Bass, drums, saxophones and additional singers expand the ar-

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GENRES

brazilian jazz | latin jazz | jazz fusion | bossa nova

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- Hermeto Pascoal
- Flora Purim
- Airto Moreira, Frank Colo...
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CONNECTIONS



rangement.[7]

Legacy

Maracanós documents a recent chapter in Moreira's continuing exploration of Brazilian percussion and improvised music, created within Bacelar's Fortaleza recording enterprise. Its stated artistic priorities are collaborative freedom, experimentation and interaction between musicians.[6] Moreira's wider career received recognition through his selection as a 2026 NEA Jazz Master; that distinction honors him individually.[8]



See all 1 →

Fun Facts

- During the recording period, Airto Moreira and Flora Purim held an ecumenical wedding ceremony at Ricardo Bacelar's home in Fortaleza.[4]
- Bacelar's daughters Maria and Sara sing on "Mestre Novo da Guiné"; Sara also receives the vocal-arrangement credit.[7]
- Bacelar also trained as a lawyer and has worked in copyright and intellectual property.[3]
- Moreira had his own Saturday radio program as a child after winning singing and percussion competitions.[1]

Musical Connections

Member Of

- Airto Moreira – Co-leading percussionist and composer in the partnership; jointly credited on its album and compositions. (Maracanós)
- Ricardo Bacelar – Co-leading pianist, multi-instrumentalist and composer; the collaboration developed at his Jasmin Studio in Fortaleza. (Maracanós)

Collaborators

- Flora Purim – Guest vocalist on "Voo da Tarde"; her earlier recording projects with both musicians helped bring the partnership together. (Maracanós)
- Liduíno Pitombeira – Contributed string arrangements to the duo's album, as documented by the label and Bacelar's interview. (Maracanós)
- Luis Lima Verde – Co-wrote "Mestre Novo da Guiné" with both leaders; the label identifies him as its lyricist. (Maracanós)

Supporting Musicians

- Kalimera String Quartet – Provided the string-quartet contribution credited in the label's album notes. (Maracanós)

Connection network

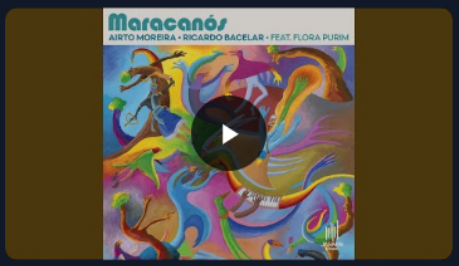
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