



tRIO: Thomas Clausen, Celia Malheiros and Carlos Malta

Three legends play "Brazil" in Pacifica

By Jean Bartlett

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Brazilian born, long-time Pacifican, multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger and singer Celia Malheiros (she plays at least guitar, cavaco, piano, berimbau, repenique, caxixi, gourd, pandeiro, flute, clarinet, banjo, moringa, triangle, ganzá, alfaia, and cajón) met musician Thomas Clausen during her European tour in the fall of 2006. Clausen, a Danish jazz pianist, arranger and composer, frequently referenced as one of the greats of European jazz, has a long list of star-studded recording and/or concert mates which includes: Dexter Gordon, Stan Getz, Chet Baker, Kasper Winding and Miles Davis.

Clausen joined Malheiros in concert in Copenhagen and the two musicians discovered a great connection in music ideas. There were more shared concerts in Brazil where musician Carlos Malta also added his voice to the mix.

Malta, one of the biggest music names in Brazil, is a virtuoso on sax and flute, playing a selection of world flutes which includes: Brazilian indigenous and ethnic flutes, the traditional Japanese flute the shakuhachi and the ancient Chinese flute, the dizi. Malta's long list of music mates includes such luminaries as Hermeto Pascoal, Arturo Sandoval, Ivan Lins, Gilberto Gil and Edu Lobo.

The three musicians found a strong commonality in music and would talk long into the night after various concerts and more ideas and dreams were laid out on the table.

In the fall of 2007, Malheiros, Clausen and Malta toured Europe as tRIO. In 2009 they met in Malheiros's hometown of Rio de Janeiro and recorded "After The Carnival."

Described by Danish music critic Finn Nielsen as "a beautiful journey into a sensuous landscape of choros, sambas and folk tunes from northeast Brazil and beyond" - the music of "After The Carnival" will be featured at this Saturday night's Mildred Owen Concert Hall when tRIO takes to its stage.

Clausen will be arriving in Pacifica shortly after a recent tour in Japan. Malta is flying in from Rio. Malheiros will be coming from her home in Pacifica with her husband and "best friend" Alex Popovics and their "beautiful" daughter writer and musician Camila Malheiros Popovics. "I have to be careful though," laughed Malheiros. "I sometimes run on Brazilian time and have been known to show up at Pacifica Performances when the parking lot was full!"

Songs on tRIO's Saturday night play list and direct from their first CD include: "Esperando o Malta" (Malheiros), "Nostalgia" (Clausen), "After The Carnival" (Clausen and Malheiros), "Rainha do Mar" (Malta), "Yemanjá" (Malheiros), "Sete Petalas" (Malta) and "Samba Train" (Clausen). The CD can be picked up at tRIO's Saturday night concert, on CD Baby and also through www.celiamalheiros.com.

Malheiros has been busy since her last performance in Pacifica, November of 2008. She did an online course with Berklee College of Music on orchestration and as a result is composing a symphony for a full orchestra. She was also chosen along with eleven other composers from all over the world to work as a composer in residence in upstate New York.

"I had everything a composer needs," laughed Malheiros, "Peace, quiet, nature, great food and wine and above all - great musicians to play music with and to create with. We did two concerts in New York and a live CD and DVD."

Right after New York, Malheiros took off for a five-week European tour. Two of those weeks were spent touring with tRIO. "The audiences in Europe are very responsive and jazz is really appreciated," said Malheiros, admitting the tour was phenomenal. "If I were to talk about all the interesting adventures along the way people would complain I hogged the entire Pacifica Tribune!"

Malheiros said this past year of new experiences as an artist has really been a year of profound growth.

“I feel as if I have more color in my hands and tools to carve and illustrate what I see and what I feel,” said the composer. “People sometimes ask why do I compose and play music. I do it to somehow make the world, or just the moment, a nicer one with better vibrations, color, moods and feelings. One individual can really change the energy and the vibration in a positive way and the more you can bring people along, the better it gets. There is no way my art will sit still and I am really on a mission in this life to create some joy with music and I never take it for granted.”

“In these difficult economic times I think it is ever more important for people to go out and hear music,” Malheiros continued. “Because it is in difficult times that we grow together. There are lots of artists expressing what we all feel and when you go out and hear new music or go to an art gallery or a dance performance, you can connect to what is out there because we are all in this same life boat. When you come to Pacifica Performances there is always magic and tRIO is no exception. Plus the cookies are only one dollar!”

If you go:

Where: Pacifica Performances Mildred Owen Concert Hall, 1220 Linda Mar Blvd.

When: Saturday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 general. \$15 members, seniors (62+) and students with current ID. Senior/student members \$12. Under 18 FREE. Available at door 30 minutes before show or in advance online at www.pacificaperformances.org by Friday, noon.

Reserved seats: Available by phone (minimum purchase: 4 tickets members, 6 tickets nonmembers)

Contact: call 650-355-1882 or email info@pacificaperformances.org.