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## BRAZILIAN MUSIC FOR TRUMPET ENSEMBLE: AN EVOLVING REPERTOIRE

BY MAICO LOPES

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# BRAZILIAN MUSIC FOR TRUMPET ENSEMBLE: AN EVOLVING REPERTOIRE

BY MAICO LOPES

Over the last twenty years, Brazilian music for trumpet ensemble has become an extremely important pedagogical tool. The repertoire has grown significantly, thanks primarily to academic ensembles that have been working in partnership with their departments of composition by commissioning and premiering works all over the country.

The Brazilian repertoire for trumpet ensemble consists almost entirely of commissioned works. To expand and form their own repertoire, each group coordinator acquires available works and also commissions new works from composers to whom he or she has close access. As new groups emerge, new repertoire is created.

We found 42 original works written by Brazilian composers for trumpet ensembles ranging from three to fifteen trumpets. The works have diverse characteristics, since the composers are from different periods and aesthetics; and all the pieces present challenging and idiomatic passages. We did not take into consideration arrangements and transcriptions—only original works.

Oswaldo Lacerda (1927 – 2011), a very important composer in the history of Brazilian music, has a three-movement work for trumpet trio, composed in 1983, entitled *Festivo*. This is the earliest work we found. The next piece is from 1986, *Uma Fantasia Brasileira*, for trumpet quintet, composed by José Ursicino da Silva “Duda” (b. 1953). The piece was commissioned by Dr. Nailson Simões for the completion of his master’s degree at the New England Conservatory that same year.

These two works helped establish a body of repertoire and a new approach to composing for brass instruments in general. Both Lacerda and Duda were very influential in Brazilian brass repertoire, having composed many works since—from pieces for a single instrument with piano accompaniment to small and large brass ensembles.

To speak about the importance and benefits of playing in a chamber ensemble would be redundant, as many authors have already covered that topic thoroughly. However, it is important to note the benefits of playing with a chamber group formed solely of the same instrument. Due to the intense schedules of professional bands and orchestras, there is rarely time enough to work on details thoroughly, even in chamber groups or during sectional rehearsals. When working in a chamber group comprised of the same instrument, however, it is easier and quicker to observe and fix problems both idiomatic and peculiar.

In Brazil, an example of a pedagogical activity that trumpet ensembles enable is the *Oficina Trompetando*, created in 1993 by Professor Clovis Beltrami in conjunction with the chamber music department at the State University of Campinas (Unicamp). The stated purposes of *Trompetando* are to develop a

professional performing trumpet ensemble, giving priority to Brazilian music and works written for the group itself; to address and resolve technical and interpretive issues; and to seek out a chamber music sound with homogeneity of timbre, phrasing, dynamics and clear articulations, always searching for unity and uniformity of both music and performers.

By observing the careers of some former *Trompetando* members, we can attest that the objectives have been achieved. Dr. Paulo Ronqui served as trumpeter at Campinas Symphonic Orchestra from 1997 to 2012 and is currently professor of trumpet at Unicamp. Flávio Gabriel Parro was principal trumpet in the Porto Alegre Symphonic Orchestra (OSPA) from 2004 to 2006, won second place in the 62nd Prague Spring International Music Festival Trumpet Competition, and, since 2006, has been a trumpeter with the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra (OSESP). Eliezer Ribeiro assumed the principal trumpet chair at OSPA after Flavio left and was a trumpeter with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra during the last season.

*Trompetando* remains fully active and is the sponsor for the only album of Brazilian music for trumpet ensemble, *Sol e Pedra* (Sun and Stone), released in 2001 and recorded with the support of the Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCAR) and

Unicamp. Glauber Santiago (b. 1971), a composer from the state of Amazonas, is professor at the UFSCAR and deserves special mention for his partnership with *Trompetando*, composing twelve of the seventeen works on the group’s CD.

Another example of pedagogical activity involving trumpet ensembles emerged in Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Simões began teaching at University of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO) in 1998, and he created the *Grupo de Trompetes da UNIRIO* in 2000 as one of the chamber

groups in the university’s Brass Laboratory. At its first public appearance, the ensemble presented a work composed exclusively for the group, *Etiam per me Brasilia Magna*, by Celso Mojola. This piece served as the composer’s doctoral thesis, defended at UNIRIO. The *Grupo de Trompetes da UNIRIO* continues actively, coordinated by Simões; and one of its functions is to serve as a research laboratory for composition students at the university.

Some former members of the *Grupo de Trompetes da UNIRIO* also occupy positions of prominence in the Brazilian trumpet scene. Dr. Antonio Marcos Cardoso and this author teach at the University of Goiás (UFG) and University of Brasília (UnB), respectively. Nicolau Lafetá concluded his jazz master’s degree at Koninklijk Conservatorium, Netherlands. Paulo Ronqui and Flávio Gabriel Parro are also former members of the *Grupo de Trompetes da UNIRIO*.

To contextualize the importance of both of these ensembles, it is important to highlight the fact that, out of 42 works examined, 14 were commissioned by *Trompetando* and 20 by the Grupo da UNIRIO.

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## CHART OF BRAZILIAN TRUMPET WORKS FOR TRUMPET ENSEMBLE

| COMPOSER                      | TITLE                                 | INSTRUMENTATION                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| André Codeço                  | Episódio em Miniatura                 | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Aylton Escobar                | Pregoeiros                            | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Bruno Parente                 | Três Pequenas Peças                   | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Celso Mojola                  | Etiam per me Brasília Magna           | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Celso Mojola                  | Fanfarra para um Novo Século          | 3 trumpets                                      |
| Claudia Caldeira              | Beradeiros                            | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Claudia Caldeira              | Farra                                 | 3 trumpets                                      |
| Claudia Caldeira              | Meraca                                | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Claudia Caldeira              | S'poia                                | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Daniel Havens                 | Fanfarra para 6 trompetes             | 6 trumpets                                      |
| Estercio Marquez              | Quarteto Para Trompetes               | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Fernando Morais               | Quarteto No. 1                        | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Gilson Santos                 | Fanfarra Para José Siqueira           | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Gilson Santos                 | Libras                                | 10 trumpets                                     |
| Gilson Santos                 | Seventy Springs                       | 1 piccolo trumpet, 3 trumpets and 2 flugelhorns |
| Glauber Santiago              | Andrômina                             | 6 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Barbebeu                              | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Brasil 250 anos                       | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Celebração                            | 6 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Fufú                                  | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Para Todos Nós Tocamos                | 6 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Peça para 5 Trompetes                 | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Pequena Fuga                          | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Sol E Pedra                           | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Trio Para Trompetes                   | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Glauber Santiago              | Trompetópolis                         | 15 trumpets                                     |
| Glauber Santiago              | Uma Maraca Para Você                  | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Hudson Nogueira               | Serenata e Dança                      | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Itiberê Swarg                 | De Bom tamanho                        | 6 trumpets                                      |
| Jailton de Oliveira           | Impressões de Ganimedes               | 4 trumpets                                      |
| José O. Alves                 | Palíndromo                            | 4 trumpets                                      |
| José O. Alves                 | Prelúdio                              | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Klesly Brandão                | Nause                                 | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Leandro Braga                 | Surpresa                              | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Luciano L. Barbosa            | Suíte dos Restos                      | 5 trumpets                                      |
| José Ursicino da Silva "Duda" | Fantasia Pernambucana                 | 3 trumpets and 2 flugelhorns                    |
| José Ursicino da Silva "Duda" | Tema Para Um Trompetista              | 5 trumpets                                      |
| José Ursicino da Silva "Duda" | Uma Fantasia Brasileira               | 3 trumpets and 2 flugelhorns                    |
| Nailson Simões                | Sipoca                                | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Nikolai Brücher               | Prelúdio e Fuga                       | 4 trumpets                                      |
| Nikolai Brücher               | Sem Título                            | 4 flugelhorns and 2 piccolos                    |
| Oswaldo Lacerda               | Festivo                               | 3 trumpets                                      |
| Pedro Curvelo                 | Três Peças para Quinteto de Trompetes | 5 trumpets                                      |
| Rogério Borges                | No Forró do Zé Doidiça                | 3 trumpets and 2 flugelhorns                    |
| Vinícius Ferreira             | Diálogos                              | 3 trumpets and 2 flugelhorns                    |

Currently, there are approximately eight trumpet ensembles active in Brazil, and the vast majority are linked to educational institutions such as UNB, Unirio, Unicamp, UFRJ, UFRN, UFBA, and the *Escola de Musica de Brasilia*. Because of their relationships with the universities, the artistic level of these groups can fluctuate each semester according to the level and number of their members.

Gradually, this repertoire has grown beyond the country's borders and has achieved international recognition. At the 37th annual ITG Conference in 2011, during his lecture recital in honor of Professor Charles Schlueter, highlighting Schlueter's contribution to the Brazilian trumpet community, Dr. David Spencer (assistant professor at the University of Memphis) invited a group of Brazilian performers to present a recital comprised solely of works by Brazilian composers for trumpet ensemble. The performers were Dr. Nailson Simões, Dr. Heinz Schwebel, Dr. Paulo Ronqui, Dr. Antonio Marcos, Dr. Maico Lopes, and Aquiles Moraes.

In 2013, a new work by Maestro Duda was premiered: *Fantasia Pernambucana*, dedicated to Nairam Simões, Duda's grandson, in honor of the completion of his master's degree. In the same year, a subsequent proposal was submitted and accepted for a new lecture-recital that was presented during the 39th annual ITG Conference in Valley Forge. For that occasion, three more new works from composers Fernando Morais, Claudia Caldeira, and Gilson Santos were performed for the first time.

The intention of this article is to introduce to the international trumpet community the Brazilian repertoire for trumpet ensemble, as a representative form of our culture through the trumpet. We believe that a group of high-level trumpeters can produce great music at a high level, well able to meet the various demands of a performing career; and we hope that players all over the world will take notice of the Brazilian compositional output for trumpet ensemble, thus promoting the pedagogical potential and growth of this genre in the development of a trumpeter's performance abilities.

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*About the author:* Maico Lopes received the Doctor of Music degree from Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO) in Performance/Interpretive Practices, working mainly in Brazilian music and chamber music. Lopes has conducted much research into brass chamber music, looking into Brazilian music for unaccompanied trumpet and trumpet ensemble and performing on premieres of over twenty such pieces over the last few years. Lopes participated in the creation of the Laboratório de Pesquisa LIC-M1, a research laboratory based at UNIRIO and coordinated by Dr. Nailson Simões, that focuses on three types of Brazilian music (solo repertoire, chamber music, and orchestral excerpts) involving brass players and composers from the university and the surrounding community. Lopes is also an active arranger and performer, having played with renowned Brazilian Popular Music (MPB) artists and Brazilian productions of Broadway shows. He is a founding member of the Brazilian Trumpet Association (ABT), an ITG Affiliate Chapter, and a member of the International Trumpet Guild. Lopes is the trumpet professor at the University of Brasilia (UNB), a member of the editorial board of *Trompete*, the magazine from the ABT, and is currently recording his first solo album of unpublished Brazilian music for unaccompanied trumpet.

