

RENATO VASCONCELLOS

Pianist, arranger, and composer, Renato Vasconcellos was born in 1959, in Caratinga, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Renato Vasconcellos teaches jazz piano, harmony, and music history at the University of Brasilia and holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Universidade de Brasilia, Brazil, and in 2001 graduated from the University of Louisville with a Masters of Music Performance Degree with concentration in Jazz. Mr. Vasconcellos served as a graduate teaching assistant, performed in Jazz Ensemble I and directed the Brazilian Ensemble at University of Louisville.

Mr. Vasconcellos has been awarded with the Medalha do Merito Cultural (Medal of the Cultural Merit) by the Government of Brasilia, DF(1999) in recognition to his composition *Suite Brasilia*, considered one of the three most representative works since the foundation of the new capital in 1960.

As a pianist, he has performed with big names of Brazilian Music like singers Maria Bethania, Simone, Leni Andrade, and Beto Guedes, having toured along South America and United States. He has also played with the Brazilian trombonist Raul de Souza and guitarist Toninho Horta in jazz concerts and recordings.

As a clinician Renato Vasconcellos has been invited to perform lecture/demonstration concerts on Brazilian Music at the University of Missouri Kansas City; Cincinnati Conservatory of Music; and the Speed Art Museum, as a guest of the Liberal Studies Project of UofL. He is also a member of the faculty group of the International Brazilian Music Workshop in Santo Tirso, Portugal since 2002.

As a producer he directed Phil Degreg's "Brasilia" and Mike Tracy's "Tracings", both recordings displaying a Brazilian twist.

His first solo CD *Suite Brasilia* (Aloha Music, 1998) includes nine original compositions and arrangements for classics of Brazilian Music. Recently he produced "Brazilian Jazz" volume 124 of Jamey Aebersold's Collection of Play-a-longs