

CLARICE & SÉRGIO ASSAD

Brazilian Jazz Vocals, Bossa Nova and Samba with Guitar and Piano
A Father-Daughter Collaboration from “Brazil’s First Family of Music”

Clarice Assad, GRAMMY-nominated vocalist, composer and pianist, “a phenomenon who has streaked across the world’s musical landscape like one of those comets that appears just once in a lifetime” (*LatinJazzNet.com*), and her father, guitarist Sérgio Assad, of the legendary Assad Brothers.

Clarice constantly captivates, whether singing in Portuguese, delivering wordless vocals, or taking to the piano bench, and Sérgio, likewise, manages to seduce with his every gesture on guitar.”

—www.allaboutjazz.com

One of the most important classical guitarists of the age giving his daughter the chance to show the musical DNA he passed on to her which she has been making the most of as a vocalist . . .

A dazzling, stunning set.”

—www.midwestrecord.com

Magical . . . spellbinding, an exquisite blend of Jazz, Chôro, Bossa Nova and Classical . . . an ‘homage’ to the musical legacy of their family.”

—www.ukvibe.org

Clarice’s singing touches the soul of the listener with its suggestion of a falling brook, its dramatic glissandos and sudden leaps that cut through the air . . . rocks and sways with the pulsating life of Brazil.”

—worldmusicreport.com



Photos: Anne Hamersky | Design: vanesalz@hotmail.com



A talent quite beyond compare. There’s certainly no one like [Clarice Assad] in Brazilian music . . .”

—**All Music Guide**

Her multi-faceted talent uncontainable as she energetically bends music to her will and reshapes it with fascinating results.”

—**Jazz Improv Magazine**

www.clariceassad.com



REVIEW

By Raul da Gama

Two years ago I signed off my critique of Clarice Assad's album *Imaginarium* as being something to die for. A few days ago (August 6, 2016) I received my copy of *Relíquia* and I have to say that I would die again. There is a simple reason for being so besotted by Clarice Assad: she is a 'heart' singer and if one were to draw up a list of singers in Brasil or elsewhere, few – very few – come to mind. Elis Regina, perhaps, and Rosa Passos, maybe... But here Clarice Assad differs from those legendary singers in an elemental way. She is, to my mind, alone in her ability to unfold the cultural topography of Brasil like an elegant film, before your eyes. No one else has been capable of that since Antonio Carlos Jobim and Moacir Santos. Moreover, Ms. Assad's gifted balladry is in a class of its own. The word 'elegiac' only just begins to describe the beauty as is evident on 'The Last Song'.

On *Relíquia* (Clarice & Sérgio Assad) we are hit by the double whammy of having Ms. Assad joined by her guitarist-father, Sérgio Assad, one half of the legendary classical duo with his brother Odair. The Assad family is venerated as musical royalty not only in Brasil, but in many parts of the world. Three generations have contributed in a myriad of musical ways to the library of Brazilian music. Having her father perform on this album only serves to heighten the mesmerising beauty of the album. Remarkably, however, both father and daughter meet as peers. Ms. Assad's gorgeous song 'Ventos' is an unforgettable example. The song is a

masterpiece of brooding, lyrical intensity. Having to rely largely on piano and guitar (with improvised, wordless vocals and vocal percussion towards the end) to communicate the idiomatic layout and dramatic gusts of the music pianist and guitarist combine marvellously to do the composer's (Clarice Assad's) impassioned and harmonically rich idiom justice almost as if they were creating an animated sculpting to the melodic lines adding dynamic contrasts to the piece.

Until recently we learned largely from rumour of the highly prized musical art of the Assad family. It is another thing to hear it performed so convincingly. In bringing to life the 'alegria' and 'saudade' of Brazilian life Clarice & Sérgio Assad reveal just how potent and vital their unique art really is; just how seductively and imaginatively it is expressed in song. Each song is a conceived and interpreted to perfection. Their joyful flair in performance, made more memorable by the unique appeal of song after song makes this one of the most well-curated and worthwhile programmes by an Assad duo other than The Assad duo. But even then *Relíquia* (Clarice & Sérgio Assad) must surely rank highly with the recorded repertoire by any Assad. And if writing about the music is insufficient to make it so, then listening to the record surely will. ■



On the 2022 GRAMMY Red Carpet

