

AÇO DA TERRA – JOÃO PAULO AMARAL

Summary

Celebrating 20 years of career dedicated to viola (Brazilian 10 strings guitar) and expanding his horizons, the musician and composer João Paulo Amaral launches AÇO DA TERRA (Steel from the Ground). With participants such as Alberto Luccas (double bass), Ana Luiza (voice), Cleber Almeida (drums), Ricardo Herz (violin) and his father at the age of 82, Valdo (voice), the album brings instrumental compositions of the viola player and his arrangements for songs such as Clube da esquina no 2 (Milton Nascimento, Lô and Márcio Borges) and Cuitelinho (Public Domain) to the repertoire. Pioneer in combining the traditional viola with double bass and drums like a jazz trio, Amaral is renowned for uniting Brazilian countryside rhythms, improvisation, virtuosity and modernity.

AÇO DA TERRA (Steel from the Ground) brings the proposal to seek a contemporary and inventive sound (“AÇO - Steel”) without giving up traditional roots (“TERRA - Ground”). There are eight instrumental compositions and three songs, with the themes that the musician has been gathering for the past ten years and that explore genres such as arrasta-pé, polca, chamamé, pagode caipira, moda de viola, cateretê, toada, samba and jazz in different viola tunings, such as cebolão, boiadeira, rio abaixo e sobre-requinta.

De Abaeté a Campo Grande, which opens the album and is also released as a single, is a modern arrasta-pé mixed with Paraguayan polca. Dedicated to the viola masters Renato Andrade and Almir Sater, it features Alberto Luccas (acoustic double bass) and Cleber Almeida (drums), partners of João Paulo Amaral since Viola Brasileira (2010), a pioneering album in this jazz concept of trio with viola. The trio allows musicians to play with freedom, including moments with viola improvisation, known as one of the key signatures of Amaral, also present in other tracks. Suíte Tião Carreiro, the composition made for solo viola, was inspired by 13 of Tião Carreiro’s themes, and translates into the music admiration and knowledge acquired during Amaral’s master's research dedicated to this viola icon.

The singer Ana Luiza participates in two tracks, which marks the first time her voice is recorded in a duet with her brother: Clube da esquina no 2 (Milton Nascimento, Lô Borges and Márcio Borges), also released as a single, and the instrumental track A mulher e o mar (the woman and the sea). Violinist Ricardo Herz plays on two tracks: Tempero goiano, a partnership of the duo, and Refugiados da Luz, both also with Alberto Luccas and Cleber Almeida. AÇO DA TERRA also brings the special guest, Valdo, João Paulo Amaral's father, at the age of 82. Singing his poem Remédio do Mato with his son, who brought the song to life, the track celebrates the affectionate side of singing, fishing and family life that originated this musician.

The preparation and recording of the album were both featured in the AÇO DA TERRA Diary, composed of 40 chapters of minivideos and text and published on the musician's YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. The album release will feature 7 different live transmissions broadcast by the artist's networks starting in June. The album will be available on all digital platforms on 06/04/21. Project was financed with resources from ProAC Edital (São Paulo State Government).

João Paulo Amaral

Born in Mogi das Cruzes-SP, his first contact with countryside music (música caipira) was in his childhood, when he accompanied his father in singing. Graduated (acoustic guitar) and post-graduated by State University of Campinas with the 1st master's degree in music about viola in the country (about Tião Carreiro), he is a professor at EMESP Tom Jobim and creator of the Viola da Terra Festival. He participated in the 3rd edition (online festival 2021) of the historic Violeiros do Brasil - Brazilian Memory Project. In addition to his solo career, and a member of the trio Conversa Ribeira, he is the director of the Orquestra Filarmonica de Violas (Philharmonic Viola Orchestra).

He participated in festivals and concerts in Portugal, Spain, England, Mexico and the United States, recording more than 30 albums and projects with names like Renato Teixeira, Robertinho Silva, Natan Marques, Guinga, Toninho Ferragutti and Nailor Proveta.

Artistic review

"Bliss, that is what I felt when listening to the wonderful work of João Paulo Amaral. It is awesome to appreciate this talented viola player and composer. Above all we have to recognize his dedication to instrumental music. Despite its Portuguese origin the viola is the musical instrument which better represents countryside Brazil, its forests, rivers, waterfalls, birds and all the other natural beauties of our country. (...) besides the very well defined regional colors and nuances, we have discovered a viola of the future, utterly harmonized with the jazz related bass and drums (...) whereas here with the viola, they bespeak new musical roads and deeply enrich the Brazilian music. Congratulations João Paulo Amaral!"

Paulo Bellinati

"... with his technique alone, he has already printed his name in the history of the viola"

Ivan Vilela

"Music can be beautiful, difficult, interesting, and many other things. In the hands of João Paulo, music is art! "

Ulisses Rocha

AÇO DA TERRA – João Paulo Amaral

tracks

1. De Abaeté a Campo Grande (João Paulo Amaral)
Afinação: Rio-abaixo. Para os mestres Renato Andrade e Almir Sater
2. Tempero goiano (João Paulo Amaral / Ricardo Herz)
Afinação: Cebolão
3. Clube da esquina nº 2 (Milton Nascimento, Lô Borges, Márcio Borges)
Afinação: Boiadeira
4. Suíte Tião Carreiro (João Paulo Amaral)
Afinação: Cebolão. Para o mestre Tião Carreiro.
5. Grito tupi (João Paulo Amaral)
Afinação: Cebolão. Em defesa dos povos indígenas, comunidades tradicionais e florestas
6. Linha motriz (João Paulo Amaral)
Afinação: Sobre-requinta
7. Cuitelinho (Domínio Público - folclore recolhido por Paulo Vanzolini e Antônio Xandó)
Afinação: Cebolão
8. Refugiados da Luz (João Paulo Amaral)
Afinação: Cebolão. Para as pessoas em situação de rua no entorno da Estação da Luz, São Paulo.
9. A mulher e o mar (João Paulo Amaral)
Afinação: Boiadeira. Para Cláudia Geronymo
10. Remédio do mato (João Paulo Amaral e Valdo)
Afinação: Cebolão. Para meus pais Hebe e Valdo
11. Vamo virá um chapéu véio? (João Paulo Amaral)
Afinação: Cebolão

João Paulo Amaral – viola, voice, arrangements, music production

Alberto Luccas – double bass

Ana Luiza – voice

Cleber Almeida – drums

Ricardo Herz – violin

Special guest

Valdo - voice

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