



ANTONIO DIONISIO

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BIOGRAPHY

Antonio Dionisio, is a native of Três Pontas in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. A gifted composer, guitarist and vocalist in Portuguese, English and Spanish, Antonio was influenced as a teenager by the work of another composer from his hometown, Milton Nascimento. Antonio's career officially began in Rio de Janeiro in 1977. From there, he took his songs all over the Americas, performing for audiences in Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico in addition to Canada and the United States.

Antonio's career has included teaching, television appearances and recordings in several countries. He also appears on albums by Brazilian artists Milton and Simone. With his broad knowledge of Afro-Brazilian roots music as a foundation, Antonio adds the influence of the varied musical styles he heard throughout the Americas to fuse these diverse traditions and create a unique multicultural sound to accompany his original compositions.

Among his many accomplishments was the invitation to perform for the "African Diaspora and the Modern World" conference in 1996, sponsored by UNESCO and the University of Texas as part of the United Nations International Year for Tolerance. As well, May 19, 1995 was proclaimed *Antonio Dionisio Day* by the mayor of Austin. The award, based on Antonio's outstanding contributions to the diversity of music in the community, "furthers Austin's status as the "Live Music Capitol of the World."

Antonio joined forces with some of Brazil's best musicians on his debut CD, *Afro-Brazilian Rhythms*. His follow-up effort was released in May 2004, "Songs From Javaland." The CD not only featured established Brazilian players (Sidinho Moreira, Robertinho Silva, Arthur Maia, etc.) but also several Austin mainstays, including Alejandro Escovedo, John Hagen, Iluminada, Susanna Sharpe, Russell Scanlon and others. *Songs from Javaland* is available in Austin independent music stores and on the internet at CDBaby.com and Amazon.com.