

ITAIGUARA

Itaiguara Brandão is a New York City-based recording artist and bassist/guitarist.

A native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Brandão has toured internationally and recorded extensively with a wide range of Latin and World Music artists such as: Marcos Valle, Chuck Loeb, Angelique Kidjo, Paulo Braga, Randy Brecker, Roberto Menescal, Carlos Lyra, Paquito D’Rivera, Robin Eubanks, among many others.



Itaiguara has been one of the most sought-after freelance musicians in the United States, having completed nearly 6,000 performances in the past 21 years. He is featured as the double-bass player in Dom Salvador’s “The Art Of Samba Jazz,” winner of the prestigious Premio da Musica Brasileira (the Brazilian Grammy) for “Best Instrumental Album of 2011” and nominated among the three best instrumental groups of 2011.

Brandão has recorded on major labels such as Sony/BMG as well as on numerous independent labels, and played on major venues such as the Nobel Peace Prize concert in Oslo, The Grand Hall of the Moscow State Conservatory, The London Olympics and the Sidney Opera House in Australia. He is a contributor to the educational book/CD *Inside the Brazilian Rhythm Section* (Publisher: Sher Music, 2005), and served as musical director for the Paulo Braga Band from 1999 to 2003.

Itaiguara Brandão attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA and studied jazz improvisation with the legendary Charlie Banacos and arranging with Mike Longo (Dizzy Gillespie’s music director for 9 years). He was awarded a Berklee Achievement Scholarship for musical excellence in 1995 and graduated summa cum laude in 1997.

Itaiguara is the composer, arranger, and performer of his debut solo album “Awakening,” released in 2015.

AWAKENING

Awakening is the first solo album by Brazilian bassist, guitarist, and composer Itaiguara, released in the United States in May 2015. Its songs, 10 of which are original compositions, are an exploration of various styles of Brazilian music and beyond. These range from samba, bossa nova, baião, choro, and modifications of traditional Brazilian styles (afoxé in 3/4 and samba in 7/4), to chamber music, jazz waltz, funk, and Afro-Peruvian. The album features 20 musicians playing a variety of instruments including flutes, clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, accordion, trumpet, guitar, drums, percussion, piano, violin, cello, bass, and vocals. The title track is a composition with a slow build, reminiscent of each day's dawn, and also represents the figurative awakening in an artist's career. For the composer, it signifies the journey from gaining experience as a sideman to articulating his vision through music.

