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*Music in the Mansion*

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# ANDRÉ MEHMARI TRIO

André Mehmari, piano  
Edward Pérez, double bass  
Rogério Boccato, percussion

*Thursday, September 25, 2025, 7:30pm*



## PROGRAM

André Mehmari brings forth a new trio and new repertoire centered on the theme of nature. Mehmari's home and recording studio are located in the Mata Atlântica (Atlantic Forest), a moist broadleaf forest that extends along the Atlantic coast of Brazil from the state of Rio Grande do Norte in the northeast to the state of Rio Grande do Sul in the south and inland as far as Paraguay and the Misiones province of Argentina. Over 85% of the original area has been deforested but part of what remains is protected by the Brazilian government as Parque Estadual da Cantareira (Cantareira State Park) where Mehmari lives and works. Surrounded by forest day in and day out, its beauty is a constant presence in Mehmari's life and surely an unconscious influence on his music. This is manifest in his compositions that his new trio will perform including *Uma Valsa em Forma de Árvore* (A Waltz in the Form of a Tree); *Veredas* (Pathways); *Sumauma*, a new work named after the tallest tree in the Amazon forest; *Lagao da Conceição*, named after a famous lagoon in the state of Santa Catarina; and *Que Falta Fax Tua Ternura*, a lyrical choro canção. He has created arrangements of compositions by Antonio Carlos Jobim: *Dindi*, which Jobim dedicated to the forest where he lived; *Chovendo na Roseira* (Rain on a Rosebush); and *Passarim* (Birdie) whose lyrics are about the environment. The works of three more giants of Brazilian music will be presented: Djavan's ballad *Oceano*; Egberto Gismonti's *Loro* (Parrott); and Milton Nascimento's *Outubro* (October). Along the way, Mehmari will introduce the works and their history.

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**André Mehmari** is considered one of the leading musicians of his generation in Brazil. His activities as pianist, composer, and arranger are highly regarded in both popular and classical music. As his compositions have been performed by leading orchestras such as Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo and Orquestra Filarmônica de Minas Gerais and chamber ensembles such as the São Paulo String Quartet, his career in jazz and Brazilian popular music has attained wide attention with performances in all of Brazil's major jazz festivals and abroad. He has performed in more than 40 countries.

Born in 1977 in Niteroi (RJ), he began to study music with his mother at the age of five and completed an organ course in the Conservatory of Ribeirao Preto (SP). At age 10, having taught himself jazz improvisation, he wrote his first compositions; and, at 15, while teaching organ in the Conservatory, he was invited to compose a method for keyboard beginners.

He began study at São Paulo State University in 1995 and, in the same year, won the University's competition for original Brazilian popular music (MPB). Two years later, the same honor was awarded to him for classical music. In 1998, he won the first national Prêmio VISA de MPB competition, the most important award for popular music in Brazil. The competition's prize included the recording of a new CD, which became Mehmari's first release.

More than 50 albums have followed, including a duo album with cellist Antônio Meneses in 2017, which launched his *Brazilian Suite for cello and piano*. *Música para Cordas* (2019) presents Mehmari's works for strings directed by violinist Emmanuele Baldini with whom he also created *Conversas com Bach* (2020) inspired by Mehmari's treatment of Bach's *Chaconne* from the *Partita in D Minor*. In 2024, he released *Nonada*, composed for his duo piano tours with Makoto Ozone. And in 2025, he released two volumes of solo piano compositions entitled *Short Stories Without Words*.

His work as a performer tells only half of his creative story, as he has received a steady stream of commissions throughout his career. Recent commissions include *Forrobodó* (2024) for the Galvin Cello Quartet. For the Opera Academy of Theatro São Pedro he created *O Machete* (2023), based on a short story by Machado de Assis and set during the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. In recognition of the year 2023's extraordinary creativity, *Concerto* magazine awarded the 12th edition of its annual grand prize to Mehmari.

Grammy-winning bassist and seven-time Grammy nominee **Edward Perez** resides in the cultural crossroads of Queens, New York, where he leads parallel careers as a composer, arranger, and bassist. His works have been performed by the likes of The Silkroad Ensemble, Yo-Yo Ma, Alan Gilbert, Galician gaita powerhouse Cristina Pato, Latin-jazz legend Ignacio Berroa, Latin Grammy-nominated Peruvian singer Jorge Pardo, and oud phenom Kenan Adnawi. His music has been played in venues ranging from the smallest nightclubs in New York to the Kennedy Center, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, El Gran Teatro Nacional de Lima, Damascus Opera House, and Boston Symphony Hall.

Pérez began his career as a jazz bassist, but quickly branched out to Latin-Jazz and traditional styles from Peru, Colombia, Brazil, and other parts of South America. He spent his collegiate years at Harvard University, earning a math degree while cutting his teeth in the local jazz clubs in Boston. Afterwards, Perez enjoyed a two year stint in Lima, Peru where he performed with the foremost Afro-Peruvian musicians.

Currently, Pérez co-leads the Terraza Big Band, an 18-piece jazz group composed of some of the strongest up-and-coming players on the New York scene who gather together to play original works by co-leaders Edward Perez and Michael Thomas, which run the gamut from modern jazz to styles from Latin America. Pérez won his first Grammy through his collaboration in the “Passion for Bach and Coltrane” project with Imani Winds, Harlem Quartet, poet A.B. Spellman, Alex Brown and Neal Smith.

Brazilian percussionist and educator **Rogério Boccato** performs in projects led by some of today’s leading jazz artists, among them Maria Schneider, John Patitucci, Fred Hersch, Brian Blade, Kurt Elling, Danilo Perez, and Renee Rosnes. He has also collaborated with leading Brazilian artists, such as Toninho Horta, Moacir Santos, Zé Renato, and Vinicius Cantuária.

He is featured on three Grammy Award-winning albums: *Secrets are the Best Stories* by Kurt Elling and Danilo Perez, *The Thompson Fields* by the Maria Schneider Orchestra, and *Rebirth* by Billy Childs. He is also featured on multiple Grammy-nominated albums, among them *Beyond the Wall* by Kenny Garrett, *Remembrance* by John Patitucci, and *Jigsaw* by Alan Ferber.

As a longtime member of the Orquestra Jazz Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, Boccato has played with Antonio Carlos Jobim, Hermeto Pascoal, Milton Nascimento, Egberto Gismonti, João Bosco, and Joe Zawinul among others.

Boccato has been a faculty member of the Manhattan School of Music, New York University, and the percussion department of The Hartt School of the University of Hartford where he teaches Brazilian Music and Ritmica.

*Trio performances are made possible through the support of Instituto Guimaraes Rosa and the Embassy of Brazil in Washington, D.C.*

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