

João Barradas is one of the most reputable and widely acknowledged European accordionists, working simultaneously between classical music, jazz and improvised music.

He has won some of the most prestigious international contests of which, among others, the World Accordion Trophy, which he has won twice, the Coupe Mondiale de Acordeão, the International Castelfidardo Contest and the Okud Istra International Competition, stand out.

João Barradas is one of the most outstanding musicians in Jazz accordion, having recorded for the New York record label Inner Circle Music and collaborated with various renowned musicians, namely Greg Osby, Gil Goldstein, Fabrizio Cassol, Mark Colenburg, Jacob Sacks, Sérgio Carolino, Pedro Carneiro, among many others.

In 2016, he records his first album as leader with the New York label Inner Circle Music. "Directions" is produced by Greg Osby and features Gil Goldstein and Sara Serpa. The group is formed by João Barradas (accordion), André Fernandes(guitar), João Esteves da Silva(piano), André Rosinha(double-bass) and Bruno Pedroso(drums).

The Beginning

João Barradas was born in Porto Alto, in the parish of Samora Correia. He initiated his accordion studies at the tender age of six at a small music school in Samora Correia, then gained admission to Instituto de Música Vitorino Matono in Lisbon, and at the age of nine, was admitted directly to the second year of the Official Accordion Course at the National Conservatory, finishing his training with the highest mark of 20/20.

João Barradas has participated in various national and international contests, having done his preparation at the Música Serenata School, directed by Aníbal Freire, one of the most important pedagogues of this instrument at international level. From a very early age, all his capabilities have been notable, such as his absolute pitch, an exemplary technique and an enormous ability to sight-read.

These are the characteristics that have raised the interest of the most important accordionists of our times, allowing João Barradas to study and play at various concert halls, side by side with the biggest names in the History of accordionists; Friederich Lips, Viatcheslav Semyonov, Yuri Shishkin, Richard Galliano, Alexander Dmitriev, Grayson Masefield, Frederic Deschamps, Aydar Gaynullin, Jérôme Richard, Eugénia Lima, Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi, Petar Maric, Aude Giuliano, Vitali Dmitriev and Eric Bouvelle, among others.

His growth as an artist has taken place simultaneously with thorough training. In these years of learning, João Barradas has studied counterpoint and composition with Maestro Edgar Saramago and with composer Hugo Ribeiro.

Classical Music

The passion for the accordion and the seriousness in the way João Barradas faces Art, made him find out about the history of this musical instrument. On this impulse, he went through a great deal of literature about this musical instrument, from Variété music from the 60s, 70s and 80s, to the contemporary compositions by Sofia Gubaidulina. This eclectic choice has resulted in more than 30 contests he has won and innumerable musical collaborations.

In consequence of this theoretical and creative “plunge” and his success in the most important international competitions, he has been working close together for 16 years with the most important concert performers and pedagogues of his instrument, becoming one of the best known young musicians on the international scene.

At the age of only 19 he recorded the CD “Surrealistic Discussion”, created together with Sérgio Carolino. This album marked the beginning of the record career of the young accordionist in the world of erudite music.

Today, João Barradas is one of the most active musicians in contemporary music for the accordion, having worked with the following composers: Pedro Carneiro, Nuno da Rocha, Dimitris Andrikopoulos, Vitorino Matono, Jarmo Sermila, Edgar Saramago, Tuomas Turriago, Joaquim Raposo, Etienne Crausaz, Filipe Melo, André Santos, Jon Hansen, Carlos Azevedo, Carlos Caires and Eugénio Amorim.

Currently, he is working hard on research, transcription and composition of original music for his instrument. At the moment, he is getting his first solo album ready with original compositions by André Santos, A. Letunov, Carlos Azevedo, Carlos Caires, Daniel Davis, Nuno da Rocha and Hugo Ribeiro. The album will be recorded in the first half of 2017.

Jazz and Improvised Music

Improvisation comes to him through listening to historical Jazz accordionists, such as Gil Goldstein, Art Van Damme, Tommy Gumina and Johnny Meijer.

At the age of 10 he started getting the first notions of improvisation through accordionist João Frade.

His extreme curiosity has made him study with the biggest names in Portuguese Jazz, some of whom are real pedagogues, such as João Paulo Esteves da Silva, Afonso Pais, Filipe Melo, Pedro Madaleno, Paula Sousa, Nelson Cascais, André Sousa Machado, Bernardo Moreira, Bruno Santos, among many others.

Internationally, he goes to various workshops and master classes. He knows and works with Mark Turner, Avishai Cohen, Jim Black, Eric Harland, Nir Felder, Carlos Bica, Miguel Zenón, Robin Eubanks, Matt Penman, Stefan Harris and Frank Möbus.

At the same time, he starts being noticed by the top names of American Jazz, such as Nicholas Payton or Walter Smith III and his name comes up at the most important national and international Jazz festivals.

João Barradas has collaborated with names such as: Greg Osby, Gil Goldstein, Fabrizio Cassol, Mark Colenburg, Jacob Sacks, Yoav Eshed, Sarpay Ozçagatay.

Contests, Awards and Education

- 2000 – 1st Prize in 6th National Accordion Trophy, category Initiated
- 2000 – 1st Prize in 12th Accordion Festival Barra Cheia
- 2001 – 1st Prize in 13th Accordion Festival Barra Cheia
- 2002 – 1st Prize in 8th National Accordion Trophy, category Infantile
- 2003 – 1st Prize in 36th International Accordion Competition, Croatia, category B
- 2004 – 1st Prize in 29th International “Citta di Castelfidardo” Award, Italy, category H
- 2005 – 1st Prize in 11th National Accordion Trophy, category Light Juvenile
- 2006 – 1st Prize in Vila de Cedeira, 1st Accordion Contest, Spain, category Junior Classical
- 2006 – 1st Prize in 12th National Accordion Trophy, category Light Juvenile
- 2006 – 1st Prize in 12th National Accordion Trophy, category Juvenile Concert
- 2006 – 1st Prize in 3rd Iberian Accordion Trophy, category Light Juvenile
- 2006 – 1st Prize in 3rd Iberian Accordion Trophy, category Juvenile Concert
- 2007 – 1st Prize in 13th National Accordion Trophy, category Light Juvenile
- 2007 – 1st Prize in 13th National Accordion Trophy, category Juvenile Concert
- 2007 – 1st Prize 2nd Accordion Contest, Acordeons de Vila de Cedeira, Spain, Junior Variété
- 2007 – 1st Prize in 4th Iberian Accordion Trophy, category Light Juvenile
- 2007 – 1st Prize in 4th Iberian Accordion Trophy, category Juvenile Concert
- 2007 – 1st Prize in 57th World Accordion Trophy (CMA), Russia, Junior Variété
- 2008 – 1st Prize in 14th National accordion Trophy, category Juvenile Concert
- 2009 – 1st Prize in 15th National Accordion Trophy, category Juvenile Concert
- 2010 – 1st Prize in 16th National Accordion Trophy, category Juvenile Concert
- 2010 – 1st Prize in International Accordion Award “Cidade de Alcobaca”
- 2010 – 1st Prize in 60th World Accordion Trophy (CMA), Spain – Juvenile Classical
- 2010 – 1st Prize in the 63rd World Cup Accordion (CIA), Croatia, Juvenile Classical
- 2012 – 1st Prize EDP Cool Jazz Talents, Portugal
- 2013 – 1st Prize Folefest, 2013, Portugal
- 2013 – 1st Prize at 11th Festa do Jazz do Teatro S. Luiz, Lisbon
- 2013 – 1st Prize in 7th V-Accordion Festival Roland Iberia
- 2014 – 1st Prize Folefest

- Special Prize “Intermusik Schmulling” (Germany)
- André Thepaz Prize (Italy)

- Special Prize “Pigini Accordions” in 63rd CIA Coupe Mundial (Croatia)
- Honorary Mention of Vitorino Matono Music Institution
- Merit Medal by Benavente Municipality
- Recognized as Ambassador by Town Council of Samora Correia for Portugal and abroad.
- Winner of “Bravo Bravíssimo, talent contest on Portuguese TVchannel SIC (2202)
- Honorary Mention as instrumentalist/soloist, at 7th Festa do Jazz at São Luiz,
- The Best Interpreter Award– Folefest 2013
- The Best Interpreter Award – Folefest 2014

João Barradas has a Master’s Degree from Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa and is currently doing a Master’s Degree in Education at the same institution.

Records, Collaborations and Concerts

- 2016 – João Barradas - Directions
- 2016 – André Santos – Solo and Chamber Works
- 2015 - Mané Fernandes - Vale de Lobos
- 2015 - Claudia Aurora - Claudia Aurora
- 2015 - Sónia Oliveira - Encontros
- 2015 - Luiz Avellar & Paula Oliveira - Trincadeira
- 2015 - Tim Pascoal - Spake Face to Face
- 2015 - Pedro Madaleno - That Smile On Your Face
- 2015 - Bonsoir Paris - Bonsoir Paris
- 2015 - Husky Riders - Safety in Numbers
- 2015 - Eduardo Cardinho & João Barradas - Quartet EP
- 2015 - Zukatuga - Zukatuga
- 2015 - Nuno Reis - Nuno Reis
- 2015 - Nuno Billy Domingues - Experience
- 2014 - André Santos - Mob Ensemble
- 2014 - Brainstorming - 1.6
- 2014 - Luso Baião - Um baião em Lisboa
- 2014 - Caldas Nice Jazz 2014
- 2013 - Hugo Trindade - Départ
- 2013 - João Barradas - João Barradas EP
- 2013 - Tune In - The Music of Europe
- 2013 - Os Alma - Alma
- 2012 - Nuno Tovar de Lemos - Aprendiz de Viajante
- 2011 - Sérgio Carolino - Surrealistic Discussion
- 2003 - O Futuro da Europa - Comemoração Dia da Europa
- 2001 - João Barradas - Lezíria do Tejo

Has collaborated with:

Greg Osby, Gil Goldstein, Fabrizio Cassol, Mark Colenburg, Jacob Sacks, Yoav Eshed, Sarpay Ozçagatay, João Paulo Esteves da Silva, Sérgio Carolino, Nelson Cascais,

Bruno Pedroso, Carlos Barretto, Paula Oliveira, João Moreira, Afonso Pais, Pedro Madaleno, Alexandre Frazão, Hugo Trindade, Marcelo Araújo, Ricardo Toscano, Bernardo Moreira, Gileno Santana, Joel Silva, Demian Cabaud, Rita Maria, Luís Candeias, Eduardo Cardinho, Yuri Daniel, Pierre Aderne, Circo B. Cruz, João Frade, Vicky Marques, Miroca Paris, Claudia Aurora, Luiz Avellar, Leo Minax, Gil Goldstein, Sara Serpa, André Fernandes, Tim Pascoal, Tito Pascoal, Alexander Toth, Diogo Vida, João David Almeida, among others.

The Media and Quotations

João Barradas has had more than half a million visits on his Youtube channel. From an early age, he has been invited to play concerts and do live performances by the most important media outlets in Portugal.

Television:

SIC - SIC 10 horas, Fátima, HermanSic e Bravo Bravíssimo

RTP- Jardim das Estrelas, Iniciativa, Regiões, Praça da Alegria e Portugal no Coração

TVI -Telenovela Filha do Mar, Olá Portugal, A Vida é Bela e Você na TV.

RTP2, Sic Internacional, RTP Internacional, RTP África.

Radio:

TSF, Antena 1, Antena 2, Rádio Comercial, Rádio Renascença, RDP Internacional, among others.

Newspapers, Magazines and online publications:

Intermusik Schmulling, Accordeon et Accordeonistes, Público, Diário de Notícias, Correio de Manhã, Jazz.pt, Expresso, among others.

Critics:

"I regard João Barradas as a beacon in the future development of accordion as a serious instrument. He is a master of all styles from classical repertoire and is the most convincing jazz improviser I have heard to date on the instrument." - Gil Goldstein

"One of the most diligent and reliable young musicians that I have encountered" - Greg Osby

"Beyond Impressive" - Nicholas Payton

"Didn't think it'd be possible on accordion! Check out João Barradas" - Walter Smith III

"Magnificent" - Jazz.pt

"A musician extraordinaire, technically gifted with an immensely creative and sophisticated phrasing." - Nelson Cascais