

Bernardo Sasseti - pianist, composer and photographer

Bernardo Sasseti (24 June 1970 – 10 May 2012) was an important Portuguese jazz pianist, composer and photographer.

Bernardo Sasseti was born in Lisbon, in June 1970. He first began his classical training at the age of 9 at home and later attended the Academia dos Amadores de Música. From the age of 12 he dedicated himself fully to Jazz music and studied with Zé Eduardo, Horace Parlan and Sir Roland Hanna. Bernardo Sasseti started his professional career in concerts and local clubs in Lisbon in 1987.

He soon became interested in written music, leaving many compositions such as the suites ECOS DE ÁFRICA, SONS DO BRASIL, MUNDOS, FRAGMENTS (OF CINEMATIC ILLUSION), ENTROPÉ – for piano and orchestra, 4 MOVIMENTOS SOLTOS – for piano, marimba and orchestra, and CONCERTO DINÂMICO – for 2 pianos and orchestra, among many other pieces for small formations.

From all the recorded albums registered in his name we select the following: SALSETTI (1994); CONRAD HERWIG + TRIO BERNARDO SASSETTI – LIVE (1995); MUNDOS (1996); NOCTURNO (2002, Carlos Paredes Prize and inserted on Penguin Jazz Guide, rated 4 stars); MÁRIO LAGINHA/BERNARDO SASSETTI (2003); ÍNDIGO (2004), LIVRE (2004); GRANDOLAS (2004, Duet with Mário Laginha); ASCENT (2005, Carlos Paredes Prize); ALICE (2005); UNREAL – SIDEWALK CARTOON (2006) soundtrack; soundtrack for the theatre piece DÚVIDA (2007); 3 PIANOS (2008, CD e DVD, Trio with Mário Laginha e Pedro Burmester); MOTION (2010).

In addition to his jazz work, Sasseti has composed numerous film scores. His most important compositions for cinema are: MARIA DO MAR, FACAS E ANJOS, QUARESMA, O MILAGRE SEGUNDO SALOMÉ, A COSTA DOS MURMÚRIOS, ALICE, HOW TO DRAW A PERFECT CIRCLE, SECOND LIFE, 98 OCTANAS, the documentary NOITE EM BRANCO by Olivier Blanc, and the short-films AS TERÇAS DA BAILARINA GORDA and ANTES DE AMANHÃ. As Soloist he took part in the movie PAX by Eduardo Guedes and in the short-film BLOODCOUNT by Bernard McLoughlan.

The soundtracks for A COSTA DOS MURMÚRIOS and ALICE were distinguished with the International Cineport trophy for best original soundtrack.

Bernardo Sasseti died on 10 May 2012, in Cascais, leaving a significant work that greatly enriches Portuguese culture.