

VANDERLEI PEREIRA

Drummer, Percussionist, Composer and Educator

Drummer and Rio de Janeiro native VANDERLEI PEREIRA is one of the most sought-after musicians on the contemporary Brazilian jazz scene. Combining a prodigious knowledge of Brazilian rhythms with dazzling technique and a distinctive touch, Vanderlei has captivated audiences with his unique and electrifying performances. He has appeared and recorded with numerous outstanding artists, including Toots Thielemans, Airtó Moreira and Flora Purim, Rosa Passos, Leny Andrade, Tito Puente, Arturo O’Farrill’s Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, Claudio Roditi, Romero Lubambo, Bebel Gilberto, Sivuca and Beth Carvalho.

Vanderlei has performed throughout Brazil, North America, Europe and Asia at top jazz clubs, concert halls and festivals, both as a sideman and as the leader of the Brazilian jazz group Blindfold Test. He has appeared at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola, the Blue Note, Birdland, Iridium, the Jazz Standard, Sweet Rhythm, Smoke, B.B. King’s, SOB’s, the Zinc Bar, the Rochester International Jazz Festival, the Savannah Jazz Festival, the Hartford Jazz Festival, the Madrid Jazz Festival, the Taichung (Taiwan) Jazz Festival, and the Syracuse Jazz Festival, among others. In addition, Vanderlei has recorded extensively in both the U.S. and Brazil in a wide variety of styles, receiving high praise from *Modern Drummer* magazine for his performance on Nando Lauria’s *Points of View* (Narada Records).

A respected educator, Vanderlei’s knowledge of harmony and theory (as well as his proficiency on bass, guitar and piano) has enabled him to teach Brazilian music to all musicians, regardless of their primary instrument. He has also developed a highly original method of teaching Brazilian music performance principles in a classroom setting in addition to giving private instruction. Vanderlei is an adjunct faculty member at the City College of New York (CUNY) and the New School. He has also taught at the Drummers Collective and has given master classes at the Berklee College of Music, the New School, Rutgers University, University of the Arts (Philadelphia), University of Delaware and the Escola de Música de Brasília’s intensive summer program.