

Brasileiras: Exploring Music by Female Brazilian Composers

Dr. Jéssica Pacheco Hjelmstad. jsscpchc@gmail.com. Laramie County Community College, Wyoming

Chiquinha Gonzaga (1847-1935)

- Francisca Edwiges Neves Gonzaga → considered the most important feminine figure of Brazilian popular music of all time
- Better known as **Chiquinha Gonzaga**
- She was the first!!! First chorona, first choro pianist, author of the first carnival march with lyrics (O Abre Alas, 1899) and also the first woman to conduct an orchestra in Brazil
- She also became the first popular songwriter in the country, adapting the sound of the piano to the taste of the people
- Success began in 1877 with the polka “Atraente”
- But her greatest success on the stage was the operetta “Forrobodó”
- She composed until the age of 87

→This is the Brazilian website where you can find sheet music of her pieces:

<http://chiquinhagonzaga.com/wp/>

Jocy de Oliveira (1936-)

- She is a pioneer in multimedia work in Brazil, involving music, theater, installations, video and text
- She is the author of eight operas
- Vastly awarded, the pianist also recorded 19 albums in Brazil and abroad
- Her production can be found on the prestigious Naxos label.

→For information on getting her pieces, please contact the composer on her website:

<http://www.jocydeoliveira.com/>

Marisa Rezende (1944-)

- The pianist only started composing master's degree at the University of California, in the United States
- She was one of the founders of the National Association for Research and Graduate Studies in Music
- She created the “Grupo Música Nova” at UFRJ, dedicated to the study and interpretation of contemporary Brazilian music and also the Music and Technology Laboratory, in 1995
- Wrote two pieces for piano four-hands

Maria Helena Rosas Fernandes (1933-)

- Brazilian composer born in Minas Gerais.
- Among her works, the outstanding compositions were mainly written for orchestra and chamber music
- Maria Helena also composed two operas
- She has been using themes of indigenous culture in her music since the 70s
- Wrote two pieces for piano 4 hands

→For information on getting her pieces, please contact the composer on her website:

<https://www.rosasfernandes.com/contato>

Inah Machado Sandoval (1906-2003)

- Well known as “Tia Inah,” (aunt Inah)
- Started composing at age 21: her first piece was a “tango” called *Flutuando*
- Wrote over 175 compositions for piano, including piano solo, piano four-hands, and piano and voice
- Most of her pieces are still manuscripts

→To obtain the scores of her pieces, please visit the website of the Instituto Piano Brasileiro:

http://www.institutopianobrasileiro.com.br/post/visualizar/Obra_de_Tia_Inah_agora_disponivel_para_tod_o_o_mundo

Some Reference Websites:

<http://institutopianobrasileiro.com.br/> - for bios in Portuguese (you can use google translate for English), for discography, for images, for sheet music, for a timeline of the Brazilian music for piano, and more. The founder of this institute told me that if you want to receive scores by Brazilian composers regularly, you just need contact him (Alexandre Dias) and subscribe to the website.

<http://institutopianobrasileiro.com.br/partituras> - for sheet music directly (just put the name of the composer)

<https://musicabrazilis.com/> - Information on composers and scores. The website says: “Musica Brasilis’s main goal is to make available Brazilian repertoires of all times and genres, mostly inaccessible due to the lack of editions.” (This website is in English)