

João Bosco: a sea of creativity

Brilliant composer João Bosco's melodic and harmonic constructions are among the most auspicious in Brazilian music. Sometimes, I think to myself: where does it come from the sea of creativity that flows into his songs?

It is most interesting that such melodic and harmonic creativity should sound so natural. I am also struck by the fact that João, who never studied music theory or harmony, should have mastered such technique and practical knowledge completely based on experience.

With unique style at the guitar, his rhythmic divisions boast amazing originality. There are songs recorded by João, with guitar and voice only, in which we do not miss the presence of other instruments. His sound borders on perfection.

It is furthermore interesting to note that we have been working on this project since 1989. The delay in completing this songbook occurred, basically, due to two factors: the composer's lack of availability for proofreading the material and the complexity of his songs. Each one was reviewed, note by note, chord by chord, by João himself.

The repertoire's 131 songs, divided into three volumes, were personally chosen by João Bosco and most were penned with Aldir Blanc, who participated directly in the exploit, reviewing every one of his lyrics. In the CD songbook, Aldir and João Bosco recorded together *O bêbado e a equilibrista*, one of the duo's greatest hits. A total 46 tracks, divided into three CDs, were performed and recorded by the *crème de la crème* of Brazilian popular music.

Besides helping choose the tracks that make up the CDs, João aided in the selection of participating artists and the songs performed by each.

We are very proud to present the much awaited *João Bosco Songbook*, now available to all who wish to play and listen to his compositions in the precise way in which they were conceived.

I thank all who participated directly or indirectly in the production of this songbook and hope that readers and listeners enjoy this precious material.

Almir Chediak