



CARLINHOS BROWN

From the streets of Candeal to the stages of the world.

Antônio Carlos Santos de Freitas, or simply Carlinhos Brown, was born in the Candeal Pequeno neighborhood in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. Brown is one of the most creative, active, and innovative artists in today's Brazilian music scene. The multi-talented singer, instrumentalist, producer, arranger, and cultural activist began his career as a percussionist.

Extremely connected to Afro-Brazilian culture and carnival in Bahia, Brown has always been one of the most prolific producers of themes for *trios elétricos* during Carnival. Various songs by Brown have been anthems for Carnival in Salvador, such as "Dandalunda," interpreted by Margareth Menezes, and "Rapunzel," recorded by Daniela Mercury.

Brown's compositions have inspired many other MPB (Brazilian Pop Music) artists such as Maria Bethânia, Gal Costa, Caetano Veloso, Marisa Monte, Nando Reis, Cássia Eller, Herbert Vianna, and even the heavy metal band Sepultura have all recorded songs composed by Carlinhos Brown.

In the midst of the eighties, when the musical climate was exploding with innovation and creativity, Brown created various groups that used music as a way to educate and teach social awareness and non-violence to the youth of Salvador, especially in the neighborhood where he grew up, Candeal Pequeno de Brotas.

Such groups include: "Via Quem Vem"; Bolacha Maria, a female percussion group; Lactomia, which brought together underprivileged children from Candeal who made their own instruments from recycled material; in addition to Timbalada; and more recently the group Hip Hop Roots, who under Brown's guidance, have reinvented playing the *surdo* drum, and the group Candombles, who combines the sacred songs and rhythms of the Candomble *terreiros* with popular and electronic music to create an entirely new sound.

Brown's relationship with music has always involved social concerns. All of the groups created by the artist have always centered on underprivileged children and youth from Salvador, primarily from his neighborhood, Candeal Pequeno.

However, Brown's actions for the community are not totally restricted to music. Since the beginning of his artistic career, Brown has dedicated himself to implementing programs that set out to improve the life of those who live in the neighborhood where he grew up in Salvador. In Candeal, Carlinhos developed the "Tá Rebocado" project, which provided for infrastructure and sanitation in the neighborhood. In 2002, this project was certified with the Best Practices of a Human Settlement Programme award from the United Nations/UN-Habitat.

In 1994 Brown founded the Associação Pracatum Ação Social (Pracatum Social Action Association) in Candeal. More than just a music school, the Pracatum is a reference center that offers professional training courses in fashion, sewing, recycling, language, capoeira, dance, and other Afro-Brazilian related courses, in addition to a preschool. This project is supported by various partners, including the Brazilian Department of Labor and Education and UNESCO.