

SCOTT FEINER & PANDEIRO JAZZ



With his “Pandeiro Jazz” project Scott Feiner has expanded the possibilities and perception of the Brazilian *pandeiro* worldwide - an instrument not normally spoken of in the same context with American music.

Feiner has walked a fascinating road from the jazz world of Manhattan to the nightlife of Rio de Janeiro. Born in New York City, and formally a guitarist, Feiner received a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies/Guitar at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut, where he studied with the legendary saxophonist **Jackie McLean**. During the early '90s he was a respected guitarist on the New York jazz scene, leading groups two nights a week at **Augie's** (now **Smoke**), the world-renowned club in Manhattan known as a meeting place for New York City's best young jazz musicians. The long list of outstanding players who performed with Feiner during that time included the pianists **Brad Mehldau** and **Larry Goldings**.

In 1999, during his first trip to Brazil, Feiner discovered the *pandeiro*, the instrument that would become his passion and new means of musical expression. He moved to Rio de Janeiro in 2001 to be closer to the instrument and Brazilian music in general. As he evolved as a player, he began to play with some of Rio's finest musicians in the *samba* and *choro* scene. Just a few years after his arrival in Rio, Feiner had become a respected *pandeirista*.

However, it is Feiner's innovative project, “Pandeiro Jazz”, that has truly set him apart. The idea was born during an informal performance in New York City in 2004 and was first documented on the CD *Pandeiro Jazz*, released in 2006 by the Delira Música label. It was recorded in Brooklyn with guitarist **Freddie Bryant** and saxophonist **Joel Frahm**, with bassist **Joe Martin** joining them on a few tracks. This CD is the first jazz recording ever made with a *pandeiro* as the exclusive percussive instrument, in place of a drumset. The world-renowned pianist **Brad Mehldau** described *Pandeiro Jazz* as “a unique sonic world ... full of subtlety and surprise”.

After the success of *Pandeiro Jazz*, Feiner released *Dois Mundos* in 2008 on the respected Brazilian label **Biscoito Fino**. It was recorded in Rio de Janeiro with trumpeter **Jessé Sadoc**, saxophonist **Marcelo Martins**, pianist **David Feldman**, and bassist **Alberto Continentino**. It showcased more of Feiner's talents as a composer, with his original compositions making up for more than half of the tracks on the album. *Dois Mundos* was nominated for a 2009 **Latin Grammy Award** and was called “one of the best CDs of the year” by **Playboy Magazine** in Brazil.

Feiner's third CD, *Accents* was released in 2010 on the Zoho Music label. It reunited the same group of NYC-based musicians as his first CD, *Pandeiro Jazz*, and further documented the growth of the project. In a review of *Accents*, **JazzTimes magazine** wrote, “Feiner couldn't have made better picks, as the quartet is fully in sync from the get-go”.

A View From Below, Feiner's fourth recording, was released independently in March 2104. It highlights his compositional skills even more so, as he penned all nine tracks on the album. It features a unique and exciting trio format with **Rafael Vernet** on Fender Rhodes and Wurlitzer, and **Guilherme Monteiro** on electric guitar. This CD represents a sonic departure from Feiner's previous three recordings, as they were all acoustic in nature. **Downbeat** magazine gave *A View From Below* a 4-star review, and the respected Brazilian music critic Carlos Calado wrote in the **Folha de São Paulo** newspaper, “The creative freedom this trio displays while shifting between jazz and Brazilian music is amazing.”

After living in Rio de Janeiro for 13 years, Feiner returned to his hometown of New York City in April 2014. The NYC CD-release performance for *A View From Below* featured a new line-up: guitarist **Mike Moreno** and pianist/organist **Sam Yahel** – both highly respected musicians on the international jazz scene, and both former members of Joshua Redman’s Elastic Band.

When asked to define his music, Feiner is quick to point out that it is *not* what people refer to as Brazilian Jazz: “Brazilian Jazz has a certain type of sound associated with it, and that’s definitely not what my music sounds like. People are quick to label it as ‘Brazilian’ because of the presence of the *pandeiro*, but if you actually listen you’ll hear that it has a personality of its own. I use a lot of non-Brazilian rhythms.”

Besides the musicians from his regular working groups, Feiner has also featured many other stellar instrumentalists from New York and Brazil such as: **Mark Turner, Seamus Blake, John Ellis, Chico Pinheiro, Hamilton de Holanda, Gabriel Grossi** and **Helio Alves**. He has also performed alongside the legendary Brazilian singer/composer **Joyce**.

Feiner is also known for being an ambassador of the *pandeiro*, introducing people to the instrument around the world. A respected educator, he has given workshops in the USA, Finland, Sweden, Austria and Slovenia. In the USA, he has also given presentations on the *pandeiro* and Brazilian music at the **Manhattan School of Music** (New York, NY), **Williams College** (Williamstown, MA), **Uarts** (Philadelphia, PA) and at the **Percussion Arts Society International Convention** (PASIC) 2008 in Austin, Texas. He also toured Mexico as a **Jazz Ambassador** for the US Department of State in 2009.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Rochester International Jazz Festival, 2014 (New York)
Jazz Standard (New York City)
Pori Jazz Festival, 2007 (Pori, Finland)
Smalls Jazz Club (New York City)
Rock in Rio, 2011 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
Regattabar (Boston, Massachusetts)
Fasching Jazz Club (Stockholm, Sweden)
Smoke Jazz Club (New York City)
Zinc Bar (New York City)
SESC Vila Mariana, 2009 (São Paulo, Brazil)
Mistura Fina (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
Goyaz Festival, 2008 (Goiânia, Brazil)
Clube do Choro (Brasília, Brazil)
Herr Nilsen (Oslo, Norway)
Festa da Música, 2010 (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)
Santa Tereza Jazz Festival, 2012 (Espírito Santo, Brazil)
Savassi Jazz Festival, 2008 & 2010 (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)
Guaramiranga Jazz & Blues Festival, 2013 (Fortaleza, Brazil)

SCOTT FEINER & PANDEIRO JAZZ // QUOTES

PRESS

"Mr. Feiner treats the pandeiro as an expressive jazz instrument" **Nate Chinen, *The New York Times***

"One of the best CDs of the year..." [*Dois Mundos*] **Playboy Brazil**

"Precise, yet fluid, funky grooves ... a tightly locked momentum compelled by one tiny, yet mighty, drum" [A View From Below] **Downbeat - 4 star review**

"The creative freedom this trio displays while shifting between jazz and Brazilian music is amazing" [A View From Below] **Folha de São Paulo, Brazil**

"A landmark for others to follow" [*Pandeiro Jazz*] **Percussioni magazine, Italy**

"A bright light illuminating the path between Brazilian music and jazz" **Jornal do Brasil**

"The pandeiro gets a new accent" **O Globo, Brazil**

"An unforced hybrid ..." [*Dois Mundos*] **David Adler, All About Jazz – New York**

"A wonderful exploration of percussive minimalism, but it's got no shortage of kick to it" **Rochester City Newspaper**

"The quartet is fully in sync from the get-go" [*Accents*] **Jeff Tamarkin, JazzTimes**

"Just when you thought that there was very little someone could introduce to the world of jazz, here comes this New York-born musician with a pandeiro in his hand to prove otherwise ... *Pandeiro Jazz* is an innovation which deserves a wider audience." **All About Jazz - New York**

MUSICIANS

"A unique sonic world ... full of subtlety and surprise" **Brad Mehldau**

"Scott Feiner is the inventor of a mixed language that's completely his own" **Joyce**

"One of the most unique and soulful groups I've heard in a long time" **Sammy Figueroa**

"Scott Feiner is a soulful magnet for the fusion of Brazilian and jazz music" **Kurt Rosenwinkel**

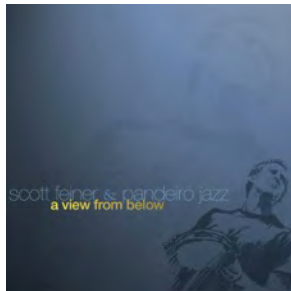
"It makes me happy to see an American musician playing jazz on the Brazilian pandeiro as well as Scott does. It opens new frontiers." **Marcos Suzano**

"I admire the natural flow of the music, the compositions, the different textures, and the superb musicianship of the group" **Duduk Da Fonseca**

"*Pandeiro Jazz* is great! A cool idea, and the band's communication is wonderful." **Luciana Souza**

"I never realized the pandeiro could play jazz like this" **Robertinho Silva**

SCOTT FEINER & PANDEIRO JAZZ // DISCOGRAPHY



A View From Below (2014, Independent). Guilherme Monteiro (guitar), Rafael Vernet (Fender Rhodes, Wurlitzer), Scott Feiner (pandeiro & all compositions)

"Precise, yet fluid, funky grooves ... a tightly locked momentum compelled by one tiny, yet mighty, drum" — **4 stars, Downbeat**

"The creative freedom this trio displays while shifting between jazz and Brazilian music is amazing" — **Folha de São Paulo**



Accents (2010, Zoho Music). Joel Frahm (saxophones), Freddie Bryant (guitars), Joe Martin (bass), Scott Feiner (pandeiro)

"Feiner couldn't have made better picks, as the quartet is fully in sync from the get-go" — **JazzTimes**

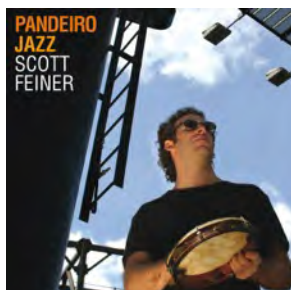
"A wonderful exploration of percussive minimalism, but it's got no shortage of kick to it" — **Rochester City Newspaper**



Dois Mundos (2008, Biscoito Fino). Jessé Sadoc (trumpet), Marcelo Martins (saxophones), David Feldman (piano), Alberto Continentino (bass), Scott Feiner (pandeiro). **Nominated for 2009 Latin Grammy Award**

"One of the best CDs of the year" — **Playboy, Brazil**

"An unforced hybrid ... Feiner gets to the heart of his in-betweenness, blending the sonic worlds of New York and Rio in an instant" — **All About Jazz**



Pandeiro Jazz (2006, Delira Música). Joel Frahm (saxophones), Freddie Bryant (guitars), Scott Feiner (pandeiro). Plus Joe Martin (bass on 3 tracks)

"A unique sonic world ... full of subtlety and surprise" — **Brad Mehldau**

"An innovation which deserves a wider audience" — **All About Jazz**