

SpokFrevo Orquestra

Thursday, October 30, 2014
The Englert Theatre
Hancher
University of Iowa



SPOK FREVO ORQUESTRA

Spok *Alto & Soprano Sax*
Carlos Cléber (Kebinha) *Alto Sax*
Gilberto Pontes *Tenor Sax*
Rafael Santos *Tenor Sax*
Enok Chagas *Trumpet*
Augusto França *Trumpet*
Érico Veríssimo *Trumpet*
Niraldo Riann *Trumpet*
Elci Ramos *Trombone*
Marcone Túlio *Trombone*
Adonis Garcia *Trombone*
Thomas De Lima *Trombone*
Hélio Silva *Bass*
Renato Bandeira *Guitar*
Adelson Silva *Drums*
Augusto Silva *Drums*
Elisangelo de Oliveira *Percussion*

Delbert José Gomes Lins *Sound Engineer*
Leonardo Pinto *Lighting Director*
Cleudson da Silva Ferreira *Backliner*
Luiz Barbosa *Tour Manager*
Carolina Ferreira *Executive Producer*
Marcelo Barreto *Photographer*

Program to be announced from the stage.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

SpokFrevo Orquestra draws inspiration from frevo, a vibrant music of elaborated arrangements and deep roots. SpokFrevo takes tradition to center stage, but does not renounce allegiance to freedom. It relies on what jazz is all about: improvisation.

SpokFrevo Orquestra arose in 2003 from musical experiences that date back to the late 1990s, led by Inaldo Cavalcante de Albuquerque, aka Maestro Spok, who plays the parts of saxophonist, arranger, and musical director. Spok fronts a 17 musicians group, a real big band with saxophone, trumpet, trombone, rhythm sections, bass, and guitar.

In the state of Pernambuco, Brazil, where frevo was born, the genre is largely confined to street festivals. SpokFrevo Orquestra takes frevo from its supporting role and presents it as the leading actor, shedding light on its original texture and complex playing technique. Grounded in musical excellence, the group breaks patterns and reinvents tradition without subverting it.

Many critics who recognize Spok's music as the harbinger of a new school endorse his boldness. In a 2009 article for *Jornal do Brasil*, Tárkide Souza writes that "the time has come for frevo-jazz," pointing to SpokFrevo as "a big band that has synthesized frevo and jazz in a blazing way." In 2005, *O Globo* newspaper ranked the SpokFrevo performance at TIM Festival as one of the ten best gigs of the year in Rio de Janeiro.

In 2009, the band's album *Passo de Anjo - Live* was awarded the Prêmio da Música Brasileira, one of the most important awards in Brazilian music, as the best CD of instrumental music of the year. SpokFrevo was named best group in the same category.

SpokFrevo's international career received a boost in 2008. The band's first large scale European tour proved the strength and the universality of its music. While in France, the orchestra was invited to perform at the closing ceremony of the World Music Day (Fête de la Musique). It has played the final gig of the event at the Palais de l'Élysée, the official residence of President Nicolas Sarkozy, who attended the performance accompanied by First Lady Carla Bruni. Touring throughout France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, and Switzerland, SpokFrevo played the European circuit of summer festivals, presenting the frevo as a unique musical language and introducing the genre into the jazz and world music scenes.

Inaldo Cavalcante de Albuquerque—Spok—is the youngest of Pernambuco's greatest frevo maestros. He began playing at 13 under the influence of his cousin and uncle, the saxophonist Gilberto Pontes. In Recife, Spok finished his musical studies and started working with the masters of the frevo scene: Ademir Araújo, Clóvis Pereira, Maestro Duda, Edson Rodrigues, and Guedes Peixoto. When Spok moved to Recife, the state's capital, in the 1980s, he studied at CPCMR (Centro Profissionalizante de Criatividade Musical do Recife—loosely, Recife's Professional Training Center of Musical Creativity). During the 1990s, the city experienced a cultural rebirth, and Spok started looking toward new horizons.

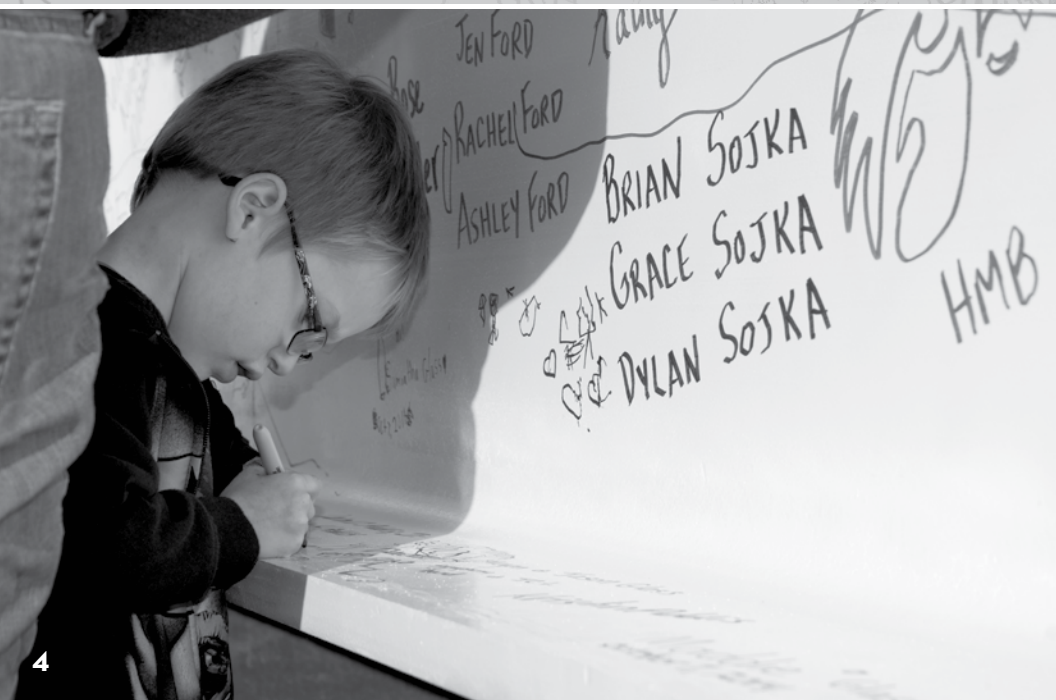
"I used to watch those musicians improvising and asked myself why we couldn't do the same to frevo, which I used to play so traditionally, following the musical score, whereas those musicians were playing jazz." He makes it clear: "I am interested in the musical freedom. In fact, the Orquestra plays raw frevo, just like it is. We are 17 Pernambuco-born musicians on the stage, we all grew up listening to this music and there is no way for us to not play it properly. The difference is the arrangements, which are created for improvising, for allowing us to put our hearts in it."



HANCHER INVITES PUBLIC TO ***LEAVE THEIR MARK***

On October 7 and 8, Hancher and Mortenson Construction invited the public to sign a beam that is now part of the new Hancher facility. More than 1,000 people signed the beam that was hoisted into place during a special ceremony featuring singer/songwriter, Iowa native, and UI alum Susan Werner. Following the ceremony, Werner became the first artist to perform on the new Hancher stage during a lunch for construction workers and others associated with the project, including architect César Pelli.

Photos by Miriam Alarcón Avila





HOBA HOBA SPIRIT SHARED MUSIC AND CULTURE IN EXTENDED HANCHER RESIDENCY

By Erin Donohue, Hancher's Education Programming Director



Hancher was thrilled to host Moroccan band Hoba Hoba Spirit for a week long residency in September. The band was on tour as part of the Center Stage program, an initiative of the US Department of State. This was the second residency Hancher hosted in connection with the Center Stage program. In 2012, during the first year of Center Stage, Hancher hosted Ti-Coca and Wanga-Nègès from Haiti.

Hoba Hoba Spirit is a raucous rock-and-roll band with an international presence. The members of the band admitted they were nervous about visiting college classes (the rest of the tour was major festivals in large US cities), but they quickly adjusted to life in Iowa City. They even purchased Hawkeye jerseys and found local musicians to jam with.

The group visited a number of UI classes including several human rights and world music courses. It was enlightening to hear their perspective about art in Morocco—"We swim in a pool of musical influences"—and how speech is regulated in Casablanca (one band member spent time in jail for playing in a heavy metal band). Frontman Reda Allali noted that the band is committed to staying true to itself: "We write what we want to write, anyone is free to listen."

The members of the band also saw a jazz show at The Mill, went bowling at Colonial Lanes, were interviewed during a special WorldCanvass event hosted by UI International Programs, and played soccer with UI students and a team of sixth-grade girls. One of the goals of the Center Stage program is cultural exchange, and it was clear that students and community members in Iowa City gained an expanded perspective about Morocco while our new friends loved having a US college experience in the Midwest.

Photos by Miriam Alarcón Avila



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Future Hancher

Arts & Minds: Building on Iowa's Creative Legacy is a \$30 million fundraising campaign to support replacement facilities for Hancher, the UI School of Music, and the UI School of Art and Art History. Our flood recovery is well underway—we've moved from reimagining to rebuilding—and when all the work is complete, the landscape of our campus will forever be changed.

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-Jane Downer
Arts & Minds Campaign Co-chair

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-Steve West
Arts & Minds Campaign Co-chair,
pictured with his wife, Victoria



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