

Background

Eduardo Mendonça, multitalented Brazilian-American recording artist, producer, vocalist, composer, and musical arranger, was born in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. Mendonça traces his lineage to a royal African family bearing the hereditary title of *Mama-Beka*, prophet of the royal court. His grandfather, José Maria de Mendonça, who secretly maintained the *Mama-Beka* title, is pictured in a rare book, property of the Instituto Geográfico e Histórico da Bahia, which shows the elder Mendonça taking part in a crucial meeting discussing the need for freedom and established social rights for Afro-Brazilian former slaves. Currently, Mendonça is voting member of The Recording Academy (Grammy and Latin Grammy); member of Ethnic Heritage Council; and member of the Arts Advisory Committee Advisory for 4 Culture (*King County - Washington State*).

Education

Master in Arts Education at the Instituto de Música da Universidade Católica do Salvador (Music Institute of the Catholic University of Salvador). (1980-1984)

Collaborations

- WOMAD Festival. Performance with Jovino Santos Neto. Redmond, WA (2001)
- Seattle City Cantabile Choir. A tribute to Brazil (Villa-Lobos) 2000, Musica do Brasil 2001. 2000-present
- Urban Rhythm Choir. Christmas Samba (Christmas Concert), Pan-Africa Concert. 1995- 2003
- Arranged and conducted, and recorded Brazilian songs to the Pacific Children’s Choir for the performances of Circle the World) in 2000.
- Music and included in Janis Mann CD - A Little Moonlight “1997”. Janis Mann is a jazz musician, Bellevue resident.
- Recorded music and included in Kofi Anang’s CD “1995”. Musician Kofi Anang is an African musician, born in Ghana.
- Percussionist for a series of workshops in Elementary schools by dancers from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater sponsored by Meany Hall for Performing Arts of University of Washington. Seattle, WA 1995

Selected Performances

- Performed for Governor Christine Gregoire at the Governor Mansion. Olympia, WA (2009)
- Performed for His Holiness Dalai Lama at Qwest Field and Key Arena. Seattle, WA (2008)
- Opening for All-Star 2001 Pre-Game Ceremony at Safeco Field. Seattle, WA (2001)
- Performed as feature musician in command performance for Brazilian President João Baptista Figueiredo. Bahia Brazil (1989)
- Performance for the former South Africa President Nelson Mandela. Seattle, WA - USA (1999)
- Performed as feature musician in command performance for Pope John Paul II. Bahia Brazil (1991)
- Performed in *trios elétricos* (brightly lit mobile soundstages for festivals and public dancing) with artists such as Dengo da Bahia, Papa Léguas, and Marcos Medrado (1980-1990)
- Toured in Brazil, United States, and Canada as vocalist and percussionist with the folkloric troupe, *Exaltação á Bahia*. (1979-1992)
- Was featured in Paul Simon’s documentary music video, “Born at the Right Time”, which took place in Salvador, Bahia - Brazil (1991)

Touring

- Show Brazil! touring in US, Canada and Brazil. (1997- present)
- Grupo Folclórico Exaltação à Bahia, touring in Brazil, Trinidad & Tobago, and US. (1977-1990)

Artist-in-Residence

- John Stanford International (Seattle, WA) Winter 2009
- Washington Cultural Congress (Leavenworth, WA - 2008)
- Washington Middle School (Seattle, WA) Winter 2008
- Methow Valley Elementary School (Winthrop, WA) Fall 2007
- Hamilton International Middle School (Seattle, WA) Spring 2007
- Hamilton International Middle School (Seattle, WA) Winter 2006
- Washington Middle School (Seattle, WA) Winter 2006
- Washington Middle School (Seattle, WA) Winter 2005

Workshops, Talks, Conferences: many taught in US and Canada as example:

- Presenter on "History of Brazilian Music" Anchorage Folk Festival Sponsored by Anchorage School District (Anchorage, Alaska - 2008)
- Presenter on "Arts: Gateway to Global Education" of Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools Conference (Seattle, WA - Fall 2006)
- Panelist of Washington Cultural Congress (Leavenworth, WA 2005 - 2006)
- Panelist of American Heritage Series: Who is African-American? (CD Forum Seattle, WA) - 2006)
- "Brazilian Rhythms" (Workshop at Conference NKE - Northwest Kodaly Educators - Seattle, WA - Winter 2006)
- Global Fest - Calgary, AB - Canada (2005)
- Evergreen State Community College - ICAF (International Capoeira Angola Foundation)(2004)
- University of Washington (Seattle, WA). Summer 2002 - Dr. Patricia Campbell project.
- Dadfodil Valley Elementary School (Sumner, WA) (2001)
- Valhalla Elementary School (Sumner, WA) (2000)
- Western Washington University (Bellingham, WA) - In a word music class by Dr. Margaret Willson (1995)

Professional Experience

- Faculty of Music Works Northwest. Bellevue, WA (2008-present)
- Teaching Artist for Nature Consortium, a non-profit youth arts program. (2008-present)
- Teaching Artist for Arts Corps. Seattle, WA (2000 - Present)
- Mentor Teaching Artist for Arts Corps, a non-profit youth development program, that partner with schools and community organizations to bring free arts classes to low-income youth. (2005-2007)
- Artist-in-Residence Coordinator. Special project of Seattle Center Foundation for Cultural Festivals. Seattle, WA (2002-2003)
- Music Director for *Show Brazil!*, an international performing ensemble featuring traditional and contemporary Brazilian music and dance. (1996 - Present)
- Director of Show Brazil Productions, based in Bellevue, Washington, which promotes Brazilian culture and provides Portuguese voice-over talent for CD-ROMs and videos exported to Brazil. (1996 - Present)
- Co-Director and Co-Founder of BrasilFest, a Brazilian Festival held at Seattle Center (Seattle, WA), dedicated to expose the community to Brazilian Arts and traditions. (1999 - Present)
- Teach, perform and serve as artist-in-residency in many schools in Washington State since 1995.
- K-12 Principal of C.E.C.R. - Escola Parque - (Salvador, Bahia-Brazil). (1991-1995).

AWARDS

- 2009 *“Neighborhood Community Arts”* - City of Seattle - Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs.
- 2008 *“smART ventures”* - City of Seattle - Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs.
- 2007 *Winner of “Outstanding Brazilian Male Singer based in the U.S”*
2007 Brazilian International Press Awards (Florida, US)
- 2006 *Tribute* from Centro Cultural Hispano Americano and the Spanish & Portuguese
Studies of University of Washington for: Excellence, Contribution in the
Advancement of Performing Arts and Education of the Brazilian Music.
- 2005 *“Aspasia Phoutrides Pulakis Memorial Award”*
for his significant contributions to the Brazilian Community and the community at-
large of the Northwest. (WA State)
- 2002 *“Kids in Brazilian Beat”*
Special Projects Program by King County Arts Commission (WA State)
- 2000 *“Brazil in Washington”*
Special Projects Program by King County Arts Commission (WA State)
- 1998 *“Brazil in Bellevue”*
Bellevue Arts Commission by King County Sustained Support Funds (WA
State)
- 1981 *“Trophy Isaias Alves” - Best music and best arrangement at 1st Festival of Afro-
Brazilian Music (Bahia-Brazil)*

Nominations:

Nominated “Outstanding Brazilian Male Singer based in the U.S”
2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 for the Brazilian International Press Awards
(Florida, US)

References

Steve Sneed
Program Manager
Seattle Center Productions - Seattle Center
206.684.7284

Dr. Margaret Willson
Director of Bahia Street
(206) 329-1782