



**Rafael Pondé** is a Brazilian visionary artist with a passion for music from around the world. He has recorded 7 albums and collaborated with many different artists and producers ranging from producer Hans Martin Buff (Prince, Joss Stone, Scorpions), American grammy awarded pianist Bill Anschell, Natiruts (Brazil) and Colombian band El Caribe Funk, among others. He is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, record producer and music educator. He has been producing songs for artists such as Omni MC (Philadelphia), Spenser Michaels (Philadelphia), Desanguashington (Washington DC), Mununu (Brazil) and Natiruts (Brazil).

His explosive performances feature a hybrid of rhythms, ranging from different styles with emphasis on reggae and Brazilian music. Originally from Salvador, in the state of Bahia, Brazil, he also promotes social justice and fights for human rights with his songs and speeches. Rafael began his career in 1996 as a guitarist, songwriter and producer for the band Diamba in his hometown. With the band he opened shows in Brazil for acts such as O Rappa, Jota Quest, Men at Work, Steel Pulse, Gregory Isaacs, The Wailers and Culture.

In 2014 and 2015, Rafael won grants from Bahian and Brazilian federal government to go to the US to promote Brazilian music and culture. Rafael has been touring the US, Europe and Latin America for about 15 years, playing major music festivals such as Weltkulture in Germany in 2009 or Brazil Day in Barcelona in 2009, among others. In 2016, he was chosen as a "Brazilian cultural ambassador" for the Partners of America program (founded in 1964 by JFK) of the American Department of State.

During the pandemic, Rafael started a series of singles such as *Cartagena* feat. Melogia that, upon its release, charted on three Spotify editorial playlists and have been widely praised around the world. Also during the pandemic, he participated in a holistic therapy retreat that made him revisit several issues in his life. This immersion led to a spiritual transformation that saw him drive across the United States from Washington DC to San Diego in 2022, where he lived for 8 months in his van while settling. Fortunately his first show was sold out and he was able to establish himself as one of the great Brazilian artists in the city. In 2023, Rafael releases the album ***Brazilian Reggae Experience Vol.1***.

#### DISCOGRAPHY

*Átomos, Palavras, Canções* (2004)  
*Horizonte Vertical* (2006)  
*Eu e Meu Violão* (2007)  
*Sorriso de Flor* (2010)  
*Afrika Bahia* (2013)  
*United Americas of Sound* (2016)  
*Nordeste Revival* (2019)  
*Brazilian Reggae Experience Vol.1* (2023)

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