

Milton Nascimento

Biography

Born in Rio, Milton Nascimento's adoptive parents, both white, brought him to Tres Pontas, a small town in the state of Minas Gerais, when he was two. His mother sang in a choir and at local music festivals, often accompanied by Milton. Nascimento's father was an electronics tinkerer, math teacher and at one point ran a local radio station, where a young Milton occasionally worked as a DJ.

He began singing as a teenager. When he was 19, Nascimento moved to the capital, Belo Horizonte, and began singing wherever and whenever he could. Finally he caught a break when the pop singer Elis Regina recorded one of his songs, "Cancao do Sal" in 1966. Regina got him a showcase on a popular Brazilian TV program, and after performing at Brazil's International Song Festival the following year, his career was launched.

In 1972 he collaborated with fellow lyricists Marcio Borges, Fernando Brant, Ronaldo Bastos and other friends to record *Clube Da Esquina*, a double album that spurred three hit singles, including "Cais (Dock)" and "Cravo e Canela (Clove and Cinnamon)." The singles are still being recorded and have become standards in Brazil over the years. Since he began recording with his self-titled debut in 1967 for the Codil label, Nascimento has written and recorded 28 albums.

Nascimento's many achievements include Grammy nominations for his *O Planeta Blue Na Estrada Do Sol* in 1992, and in 1995 for his Warner Bros. debut, *Angelus*. Nascimento is also winner of the 1992 Down Beat International Critics' Poll and the 1991 Down Beat Readers' Poll. Nascimento has toured throughout the U.S., Europe, Japan and Latin America.

This charismatic Brazilian superstar just won't slow down. And whether he's packing a stadium in Brazil or singing at a club in New York, his experienced stage persona allows everyone in the audience to feel as if they're in his living room. On "Angelus," he's joined by saxophonist Wayne Shorter, who pays tribute to Nascimento's 1975 *Native Dancer* LP, the high point of which was the synthesis between Nascimento's voice and Shorter's saxophone. That album helped to solidify Nascimento's place on the international jazz and pop scene in the 1970s. Whatever he writes and sings about, be it the planet, our ways of living and loving and dying, his music has always carried an eternally optimistic spirit.

- *Courtesy Calabash Music*

<http://www2.uol.com.br/miltonnascimento/>

<http://worldmusic.nationalgeographic.com>