

Scott Feiner bio

Scott Feiner's musical story is not a common one. Not only is he an American *pandeiro* player, but he has also introduced this Brazilian hand drum to the world of jazz in a highly personal way.

A native of New York City, and originally a guitarist, Feiner received a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies/Guitar at the **Hartt School of Music**, where he learned about jazz history from the legendary saxophonist **Jackie McLean**. In 1990 he returned to New York City and immersed himself in the jazz scene, gaining a reputation for his sense of swing and lyrical phrasing. During the early '90s Feiner led bands 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. He recorded two CDs during that period - **Under the Influence** and **Feiner's Keepers** - featuring musicians such as organist **Larry Goldings** and saxophonist **Joel Frahm**.

In 1999, during his first trip to Brazil, Feiner discovered the *pandeiro*, the instrument which would become his passion and new means of musical expression. He moved to Rio de Janeiro in 2001 to be closer to the *pandeiro* 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*.

It is Feiner's innovative project "Pandeiro Jazz" however, that has truly set him apart. It was first documented on the CD **Pandeiro Jazz** (2006, Delira Música), recorded in New York City with guitarist **Freddie Bryant**, saxophonist **Joel Frahm**, and bassist **Joe Martin**. This recording is possibly the first jazz recording ever made with a *pandeiro* as the exclusive percussion instrument, in place of a drumset. After the success of *Pandeiro Jazz*, Feiner released **Dois Mundos** (2008, Biscoito Fino), recorded in Rio de Janeiro with trumpeter **Jessé Sadoc**, saxophonist **Marcelo Martins**, pianist **David Feldman**, and bassist **Alberto Continentino**. This CD was nominated for a 2009 **Latin Grammy Award**.

Feiner performs regularly at festivals and clubs around the world and is constantly experimenting with different formats ranging from duo to quintet. Besides the musicians from his regular working groups, Feiner has also featured many other stellar instrumentalists from New York and Brazil in his performances: **Mark Turner**, **Seamus Blake**, **Chico Pinheiro**, **Hamilton de Holanda**, **Gabriel Grossi** and **Helio Alves**, to name a few.

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 *pandeiro* 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** (Austin, TX). He also toured Mexico as a **Jazz Ambassador** for the US Department of State in 2009. Feiner created the Internet's most widely known *pandeiro*-oriented website, *Pandeiro.com* and is working on a documentary film called **Meu Coração é um Pandeiro** (*My Heart is a Pandeiro*).

Performance highlights

Pori Jazz Festival (Pori, Finland); **Fasching** (Stockholm, Sweden); **Jazz Standard** (New York City); **Smoke** (New York City); **Smalls** (New York City); **Ryles** (Boston); **Mistura Fina** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); **Centro Cultural Carioca** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); **Sala Baden Powell** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); **Festival In Jazz** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); **Goyaz Festival** (Goiânia, Brazil); **SESC Avenida Paulista** and **SESC Vila Mariana** (São Paulo, Brazil); **Savassi Jazz Festival** (Belo Horizonte, Brazil).