

# Artist Enclave Interview – O Som Do Jazz

By Brian Lynch

This is another in a series of interviews with Historic Kenwood artists as part of highlighting our “Neighborhood of the Arts” and our soon to be Artist Enclave.

*What does the name of your band mean? How did you choose it?*

“O Som do Jazz” means The Sound of Jazz. We wanted a name in Portuguese, but with words that have a meaning in English.



*Andrea Moraes Manson is the band’s singer, and is from Rio de Janeiro. How did she and her husband David end up in St. Petersburg?*

I met David at a First Friday block party in downtown St Pete. I approached David to tease him for wearing a suit and tie at a block party. He turned to face me, smiled, took his tie off and we have been together since then. We got married two years later.



***Andrea was trained as an architect. How did she evolve into a singer? Was she trained as a singer, or just have a natural ability?***

David heard me singing in the shower.... and he asked me to be featured singer for a St. Petersburg College Jazz Band concert. I said “no” for a long time, but finally gave in. For years, I would tell the audiences that he “forced me to be a singer!” What a terrible thing!



***What is your husband David's history as a musician?***

David trained as an orchestral trombonist and has his doctorate in music. He returned to Florida (he grew up here) and began playing jazz and composing. Now he teaches in the Music Industry/Recording Arts (MIRA) program at St. Petersburg College (SPC). He is also director of the nonprofit EMIT series, since 1995. EMIT programs concerts of adventurous music and music workshops for the community. They have given many concerts at the Salvador Dali Museum.



***Tell us a little about the other members of the band:***

- Colombian keyboardist David Cubillos is a recent graduate of U.S.F. He plays with several Latin music and show groups and lives in Sarasota.
- Drummer Mark Feinman had a Brazilian bassist as a roommate in NYC when he was a music student and really understands our Brazilian music. He is the current president of the Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association and teaches in the MIRA program at SPC.
- Colombian bassist Alejandro Arenas recently became a proud father and teaches at SPC in the MIRA program. He plays the upright bass with us.
- Cuban guitarist Alfredo Rivero came from a famous Cuban musical family that toured the world. He is an amazing fingerstyle guitarist and is often seen performing at Ceviches in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota.
- Saxophonist Austin Vickrey graduated from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and teaches music theory at SPC in the MIRA program. Austin married Jennifer just a week ago. They take care of their adorable pug, LeRoy.

***The band's sound is Bossa Nova, samba-jazz, and MPB (Música Popular Brasileira, or Brazilian Pop Music). Is your band's music unique compared to other similar bands?***

We make a great effort to play authentic Brazilian music in the various styles. We do not know of any other Brazilian bands except in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. We greatly admire that early 1960s sound from the Brazilian Tamba and Zimbo Trios, as well as the remarkable singer Elis Regina.



***Your band has performed in several local locations, including Kenwood's Founder's Day and Art in the Park. Do you enjoy more a certain type of venue such as outdoors or indoors, small audiences or larger ones?***

We enjoy chatting with the audience, joking, and comparing cultures while on stage. It's always more fun when the audience laughs, or even dances with us. The Clearwater Jazz Festival was great and the Historic Asolo Theatre was impressive with its Baroque style. We really like the Side Door venue at the Palladium Theater for its close cabaret seating.

***The band has just released a new CD, "A Kiss for Rio." What can you tell us about the music on the new CD? How does it compare to your debut CD (Infinita Bossa)?***

“Infinita Bossa” was mainly Brazilian Bossa Nova standards and only had one original song. “A Kiss for Rio” has nine originals (written by David and myself) and only three standards, and there are many more styles of Brazilian music. The CD has Bossa Nova, samba-funk, chill, MPB, samba-jazz, marcha & Baião (from northeastern Brasil). Although the CD has only been available for a week, it is making good impressions. One radio announcer at WMNF-FM has already said that it will likely be his selection for “CD of the Year.” CD Baby has it online.



Visit the band’s website for more information about the band and upcoming concerts, and to order their CDs at [www.osomdojazz.com](http://www.osomdojazz.com)

The band will host a CD release concert at the Palladium Theater Side Door on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at the Palladium Side Door in St. Petersburg.