

Regional de NY Press Kit

The group:

The Regional de NY is a traditional *choro* group in the style of the great Brazilian ensembles of years past and present. Our mission is to keep the rich musical tradition of *choro* alive in a contemporary US context. We bring a deep love for the history of the genre together with a modern attitude towards arrangement and performance to create a style of *choro* that reflects our time, place, and backgrounds. We also have a community-building objective: by hosting regular *rodas* (jam sessions), we bring our music to the public in an informal setting and provide a unique opportunity for students of *choro* to sit in with the band and hone their craft. We have been together as a band since 2011, and have performed at venues such as Zinc Bar, Cornelia Street Café, the Cell Theatre, and the Brazilian Endowment for the Arts.

Hadar Noiberg (flute):

Since arriving in NYC from Israel at age 21, flutist, composer and arranger Hadar Noiberg has established herself as a major force in the Brazilian, Cuban, Jazz and World music scenes. With a language that transcends her Middle Eastern roots, she fuses styles seamlessly, distinguishing her as both innovative and highly skilled. In 2007 Hadar received an outstanding award from the ASCAP foundation for her composition skills and has since performed in venues such as the Blue Note, Dizzy's and Central Park SummerStage. For the past several years, Hadar has been studying and immersing herself in the repertoire and the tradition of *choro*. In her eyes, *choro* embodies all great aspects of music: groove, beautiful melodies, intricate harmony, and room for improvisation.

Vitor Gonçalves (accordion):

Vitor Gonçalves has been an in-demand performer on the Brazilian music scene in Rio de Janeiro, having collaborated with such luminaries as Hermeto Pascoal, Leo Gandelman, Elza Soares and Emílio Santiago. For nine years he was an integral member of the Itiberê Orquestra Família, an ensemble led by Itiberê Zwarg, the bassist of Hermeto Pascoal's group, and can be heard on three of their albums. For three years he collaborated on tours and recordings with the acclaimed Brazilian singer Maria Bethânia. He recently relocated from Rio to New York to pursue a Master's Degree at City College.

Kahil Nayton (cavaquinho):

Kahil Nayton first travelled to South America after completing the final year of a music performance degree in his native Australia. During this trip, he developed a passion for Brazilian music and the *cavaquinho*, a passion that inspired a return trip to Brazil and three months of study at Escola Portátil de Música and lessons with renowned

cavaquinhists Jayme Vignolli and Luciana Rabello. Currently living New York, Kahil can be found playing cavaquinho and guitar around the city.

Cesar Garabini (7-string guitar):

Born in Minas Gerais, Brazil, Cesar Garabini has lived also in Florence, Italy, and New York. Attracted to the guitar as a young teenager, it wasn't until he moved to Italy that he began to develop a passion for the music of his native Brazil—especially choro, bossa nova and samba. He plays the seven-string Brazilian Classical guitar, mixing both traditional music and techniques with a modern sensibility. Whether playing in a traditional choro group, as an accompanist to a singer, or as a soloist, it is the balanced elegance and complexity of the guitar that continues to inspire him.

Ranjan Ramchandani (percussion/bandleader):

Ranjan Ramchandani's first introduction to Brazilian music was through extensive study of Rio's Carnival-style samba percussion. After falling in love with traditional samba and choro, he began serious study of the pandeiro, Brazil's most iconic percussion instrument. He has spent time in Rio playing with and learning from the leading lights of contemporary Brazilian music and is privileged to count among his teachers Celsinho Silva, Netinho Albuquerque, Marcos Suzano, and Sergio Krakowski. He has shared the stage with numerous luminaries of contemporary samba and choro, including Alessandro Penezzi, Moyseis Marques, Alfredo Del-Penho, Rogério Souza, Zé Paulo Becker, and Nailor Proveta, and he currently leads the Regional de NY.

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