

= Dorival Caymmi =

Dorival Caymmi (April 30 , 1914 ? August 16 , 2008) was a Brazilian singer , songwriter , actor , and painter active for more than 70 years beginning in 1933 . He contributed to the birth of Brazil 's bossa nova movement , and several of his samba pieces , such as " Samba da Minha Terra " , " Doralice " and " Saudade da Bahia " , have become staples of Música popular brasileira . Equally notable are his ballads celebrating the fishermen and women of Bahia , including " Promessa de Pescador " , " O Que É Que a Baiana Tem ? " , and " Milagre " . Caymmi composed about 100 songs in his lifetime , and many of his works are now considered to be Brazilian classics . Both Brazilian and non @-@ Brazilian musicians have covered his songs .

Ben Ratliff of The New York Times wrote that Caymmi was " perhaps second only to Antônio Carlos Jobim in ' establishing a songbook of [the 20th] century ' s Brazilian identity . " Throughout his career , his music about the people and culture of Bahia influenced Brazil 's image in the eyes of both Brazilians and foreigners . Caymmi was married to Brazilian singer Stella Maris for 68 years , and the couple 's children , Dori Caymmi , Danilo Caymmi , and Nana Caymmi , are also prominent musicians . Each debuted professionally by accompanying their father onstage and in recordings .

= = Early life = =

Caymmi was born in Salvador , Bahia , to Durval Henrique Caymmi , the great @-@ grandson of an Italian immigrant , and Aurelina Soares Caymmi , a native Bahian . He had two younger sisters , Dinahir and Dinah , and a younger brother , Deraldo . His father , a civil servant , often played the piano , guitar , and mandolin at home , and his mother , a housewife , sang regularly . He participated in his church 's choir for much of his childhood . At age 13 , he left school to work as a journalist at Bahian newspaper O Imparcial . When O Imparcial went out of business two years later , he took up work as a street vendor .

Although he never formally studied music , Caymmi taught himself to play guitar in the late 1920s and began to compose , sing , and play his own songs on Bahian radio programs around 1930 . He first achieved widespread recognition in 1933 , when at age 16 , he composed the song " O Que É Que A Baiana Tem ? " (" What Is It About Bahian Women ? ") for singer Carmen Miranda . In 1936 , at age 22 , he won a songwriting contest at Salvador 's annual Carnaval celebration . His prize was a pink satin lampshade . Despite his early musical success , he moved to Rio de Janeiro in 1938 with intentions to pursue a law degree and to return to working as a journalist . While employed there by the newspaper Diários Associados , he spent his spare time composing and singing songs on the radio show Dragão da Rua Larga . His popularity began to grow with the show 's audience .

= = Career = =

= = = Overview = = =

Many of Caymmi 's lyrics pay homage to the lifestyle , beaches , fishermen , and women of his native Bahia . He drew much of his inspiration from music indigenous to northeastern Brazil , especially Afro @-@ Brazilian music and samba . He recorded for more than five decades and released about 20 albums , sometimes singing and playing guitar as a soloist and at other times accompanied by bands and orchestras . Although active for the better part of the 20th century , Caymmi wrote only about 100 songs . Despite having a relatively small body of work , Caymmi held a reputation for composing songs of exceptional quality . He occasionally collaborated with Jobim , who called him a " universal genius " and Brazil 's greatest composer . Many contemporary Brazilian artists , including Caetano Veloso , Gilberto Gil and Beth Carvalho cite Caymmi as a significant influence on their music .

= = = Chronology = = =

" O Que É Que a Baiana Tem ? " gained even more fame in Brazil when Miranda performed it in the 1939 film *Banana @-@ da @-@ Terra* , and it was this song that garnered her international attention and helped launch her career . After this success , Caymmi began to focus more on making music , and he wrote songs that appeared in other Brazilian films . In late 1939 , he signed with Odeon Records and recorded his first three singles , " Rainha do Mar / Promessa de Pescador " (" Queen of the Sea / Promise of the Fisherman ") , " Roda Pião " (" Top Wheel ") , and " O Que É Que a Baiana Tem ? / A Preta do Acarajé " (" What Is It About Bahian Women ? / The Dark Woman from Acarajé ") . He came to more attention in the early 1940s when he performed as a regular on the Brazilian radio network Rádio Nacional . He recorded " Samba da Minha Terra " (" Samba of My Homeland ") in 1940 and " A Jangada Voltou Só " (" The Raft Returned Alone ") in the following year . In 1944 , he performed his own " Acontece Que Eu Sou Baiano " (" It Just So Happens That I 'm Bahian ") in the movie *Abacaxi Azul* (*Blue Pineapple*) . In the late 1940s , he was a member of the samba @-@ canção movement largely founded by his sometime creative rival , composer Ary Barroso . Other prominent Brazilian musicians of the day covered several of his songs , including Dick Farney , who famously recorded Caymmi 's " Marina " (1944) in 1947 . In 1957 Caymmi wrote " Suíte do Pescador " , which appeared in the film *The Sandpit Generals* .

In the 1950s and 1960s , Jobim , João Gilberto , and others who contributed to the birth of the bossa nova style collaborated with Caymmi and often referenced his work when composing their own pieces . During this era , Gilberto covered several of Caymmi 's songs , including " Rosa Morena " (" Dark @-@ skinned Rose ") and " Saudade da Bahia " (" Longing for Bahia ") . Jobim was particularly enamored of Caymmi 's music , and the two grew to be close friends . American lyricist Ray Gilbert translated Caymmi 's " Das Rosas " into English in 1965 , and it was released in the United States as " And Roses and Roses " . The song was recorded by Brazilian vocalist Astrud Gilberto and by American singers Andy Williams and Perry Como . Williams 's version became a hit , and as a result , Caymmi was invited to spend four months in Los Angeles , where he performed , filmed a television show , and recorded an LP record .

== = Collaboration with Jorge Amado == = =

Caymmi was a lifelong friend of Bahian author Jorge Amado , and in 1945 , he set one of Amado 's politically driven poems to music to aid the senatorial campaign of Luís Carlos Prestes . In the late 1970s , Caymmi again took inspiration from Amado when he composed " Modinha para a Gabriela " (" A Little Song for Gabriela ") , a musical adaptation of Amado 's novel *Gabriela , Cravo e Canela* (*Gabriela , Cloves and Cinnamon*) . Perhaps the best @-@ known product of Caymmi and Amado 's collaboration is the song " É Doce Morrer no Mar " (" It 's Sweet to Die in the Sea ") , which the two wrote over dinner one night at Amado 's home . Other songs they co @-@ wrote include " Beijos pela Noite " (" Kisses Through the Night ") , " Modinha para Teresa Batista " (" A Little Song for Teresa Batista ") , " Retirantes " (" Migrants ") , and " Essa Nega Fulô " (" This Feisty Dark Lady ") .

== Awards and honors ==

To thank Caymmi for bringing international attention to Brazilian music and culture , in 1968 , the governor of Bahia presented Caymmi with a house in Salvador , and so he returned to live in his hometown for a short period of time . In 1972 , Caymmi was awarded the Order of Merit of the State of Bahia , an order given to Bahian residents for excellent service to the state . In Caymmi 's case , the service was bringing pride and honor to Bahian people through the widespread dissemination of his music about life there . On Caymmi 's 70th birthday , in 1984 , French Minister of Culture Jack Lang presented him with the *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* , a French order that recognizes significant contributors to the fields of art and literature , in Paris . The following year , a new street named *Avenida Dorival Caymmi* (*Dorival Caymmi Avenue*) opened in Salvador . In 1986 , Rio de Janeiro 's famed *Manguera* samba school based its Carnival performance on Caymmi 's life and

work , and the school won the annual parade @-@ style samba competition . In 2015 , his tribute album Centenário Caymmi was nominated for the 16th Latin Grammy Awards in the Best MPB Album category .

= = Personal life = =

Although Caymmi earned his fame through music , he was also known to a lesser degree for his paintings . From 1943 to 1945 , he regularly attended a drawing and painting class at the Escola de Belas Artes , a fine arts school in Rio de Janeiro . Even after discontinuing his formal study , he painted for the rest of his life . He practiced Candomblé , an Afro @-@ Brazilian religion characterized by belief in spirit @-@ gods and ritualistic practices involving mediumship . Candomblé was his father 's religion , and Caymmi gradually involved himself more with it as an adult , when his friends invited him to accompany them to religious ceremonies and parties . Caymmi was also a naturist , and when he was in Bahia , he liked to bathe nude in the Lagoa do Abaeté (Abaeté Lagoon) with a group of friends . He stated to the newspaper Valor Econômico : " We rolled around in palm leaves and slipped through the mountains of sand . Some people didn 't like this , but most understood that we weren 't naked for unclean reasons . "

= = = Marriage = = =

While working at Rádio Nacional in 1939 , he met Brazilian vocalist Adelaide Tostes , who is better known by her stage name Stella Maris , and the two married in 1940 . Tostes responded to a 1994 press query about Caymmi 's habit of frequenting bars with a short story : " One night I went to look for him in a bar ... He was surrounded by women . I went in and slammed a table . A glass broke . The bouncer came , and I punched Caymmi 's face . Then I left cussing . I thought he was involved with drugs , but it wasn 't the case . He was with the tramps . " Despite such incidents , however , they remained together for 68 years , until his death in 2008 . The couple had three children , Nana , Danilo , and Dori , all of whom followed their father into musical careers .

= = = Politics = = =

Although Caymmi rarely incorporated political messages into his music , he often spoke bitterly about the government 's corruption . Jorge Amado , his close friend , was sent into exile for several years after he publicly criticized the country 's rulers during the period of military dictatorship . In 1994 , Caymmi said , " I have concluded that to act as a citizen in Brazil today is to live a joke . It 's the same as playing the lotto , dreaming about nonsense , trying to get rich when you are 80 . "

= = Death = =

Dorival Caymmi died at age 94 of kidney cancer and multiple organ failure on August 16 , 2008 , at his home in Copacabana , Rio de Janeiro . His granddaughter , Stella , who wrote a biography about him in 2001 , said , " He did not know that he had cancer , and he did not want to know . He did not ask much about this . He was first hospitalized in 1999 . My grandfather went through with treatment , but he did not want to know anything about the illness . He acted with serenity every day , and because of that , we respected this wish . "

= = Reception and legacy = =

Brazilian singer and composer Carlos Lyra praised Caymmi 's style for its " suave and romantic colloquialism . " In a 1994 anthology of Caymmi 's work , Antônio Carlos Jobim wrote in the introduction , " Dorival is a universal genius . He picked up the guitar and orchestrated the world . " In 2001 , New York Times journalist Ben Ratliff wrote that Caymmi was " perhaps second only to Antônio Carlos Jobim in ' establishing a songbook of this century ' s Brazilian identity . " On the

day of Caymmi 's death in 2008 , Brazilian composer and musician Tom Zé said , " It 's difficult to comprehend just how valuable a CD of Caymmi 's beach songs from the 1940s is . " Also around the time of Caymmi 's death , President of Brazil Luis Inácio Lula da Silva called him " one of the founders of Brazilian popular music . " Several of Caymmi 's contemporaries , including Gal Costa and Olivia Hime , have recorded tributes to him .

= = Discography = =

= = = Albums = = =

Prior to 1988 , all of Caymmi 's albums were released as LP records . His last four albums were released as CDs .

= = = Singles = = =

All of Caymmi 's singles were released as 78 rpm gramophone records .

= = = Tributes = = =

Note

A. ^ Reissued under new label .