

**JAMES SELLARS**

*Sonata Brasileira*

(Sonata IV)

HOG RIVER MUSIC  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

## PROGRAM NOTE

*Sonata Brasileira* is an extension of the keyboard styles of Schumann, Chopin, and Liszt, mixed with post-minimalism and the influence of post-modernism. By post-modernism I mean the use of many codes from the past (19th-century virtuoso grand piano style, allusions to tonality, the large gesture) formulated in late-20th-century terms. The fourth out of six piano sonatas (so far), *Sonata Brasileira* was written for my friend, the Brazilian-American pianist Luiz de Moura Castro during the winter of 1987. Since at that time I had never visited Brazil, the musical quality came to me while imagining what the Brazilian landscape must be like, what it must *feel* like to be there. The result was an expression of a dramatic nature, long, nostalgic melodic lines, many, many notes in irregular, unordered patterns, and an almost compulsive repetition that longs for ecstasy. There is an erotic energy in these expansive musical images that cannot end, but instead fades into a sleep filled with dreams of itself.

*James Sellars*

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# SONATA BRASILEIRA

## (Sonata IV)

for Luiz de Moura Castro

James Sellars

Espansivo (♩=ca.108)

*f*

*Red. Red. Red. simile*

*poco rit.* *poco meno mosso* (♩=ca.102)

*espressivo*

*f non troppo*

*rit.* ..... poco meno allegro (♩=ca.80)

musical score system 1, featuring piano and bass staves with various notes and rests. The tempo marking *poco staccato* is present. The dynamic marking *mp* is shown. Fingerings of 5 and 5 are indicated. A measure rest of 16 is shown.

musical score system 2, featuring piano and bass staves. The tempo marking *p subito* is present. A tempo change to 2/4 is indicated. A measure rest of 6 is shown. A tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 74$  is present. Fingerings of 5 and 6 are indicated.

musical score system 3, featuring piano and bass staves. The tempo marking *(becoming staccato)* is present. The dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, and *f* are shown. Fingerings of 6 and 6 are indicated.

musical score system 4, featuring piano and bass staves. The dynamic markings *pp subito e legato* and *ppp* are shown. The instruction *con pedale* is present. The instruction *una corda* is present. Fingerings of 6 and 6 are indicated.

musical score system 5, featuring piano and bass staves. The dynamic markings *più ppp*, *p*, *mp*, and *mf* are shown. The instruction *tre corde* is present. A tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 111$  is present. Measure rests of 6 and 12 are shown.

musical score system 6, featuring piano and bass staves. The dynamic marking *f cresc. poco a poco* is present. Measure rests of 12 and 12 are shown.

*sf* *mf* *f*

*poco allargando*  
10 10 10 10 10

*ff*  
Ped.

*Red. simile*

*f* *p subito* *f subito* *mf*  
Ped.

*mark the octaves*  
*mp* *p*  
Ped. *senza pedale* *con pedale*

*pp staccato*

*senza pedale*

*pp sempre* *f staccato sempre*

*Seq.*

*senza pedale*

*mf*

*dim. poco a poco*

*p*

*una corda*

*pp*

*p*

Espressivo (♩=72)  
(molto ritenuto)

*rit.*

*rush a bit*

*hold back slightly*

*p*

*molto*

*faster*

*f*

*molto*

*p subito*

(con pedale)

*rit.*

*f subito*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

Fast (♩=ca.117)

*fff*

(con pedale)



First system of musical notation, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with various notes and rests.

Second system of musical notation, including dynamic markings *f* and *ff*, and measure numbers 16 and 19.

Third system of musical notation, including dynamic marking *f*, the instruction *simile*, and measure numbers 19, 16, and 11.

Fourth system of musical notation, including the instruction *poco rit.*, a tempo marking  $(\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 110)$ , and dynamic marking *ff intenso*.

Fifth system of musical notation, including dynamic marking *dim. poco a poco* and the instruction *molto pedale*.

Sixth system of musical notation, including a tempo marking  $(\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 108)$ , dynamic marking *p legato - distant*, and the instruction *una corda*.

*poco rit.*  $\text{♩} = 72$  Molto espressivo ( $\text{♩} = 72$ ) *p*

*pp (una corda ad lib.)*

*molto pedale*

*p possibile*

*8va*



*poco allargando*

*f* *cresc.* *ff*

*con pedale*

Allegro espressivo  
(♩=ca.108)

*ff*

*fff espansivo*

*fff espansivo*

*f*

*f*

*mf3*

*mf3*

*molto rallentando*

*pp*

*pp*

*molto rallentando*

Slower (♩=86) *espressivo* *gradually relax tempo*

*mp* *dim. poco a poco*

*p* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

3 *poco rit.* *Freely, molto rubato\**

*p espressivo e sostenuto*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

3 *legato*

*ppp subito*

*legato*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

*poco rit.* ..... *start slowly* *accelerando* .....

6 *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

*con pedale*

*fast staccato*

*f* *f*

*non ped.*

1/2 *red.*

*p* *molto sostenuto*

*pp* *(non ped.)*

\*Accidentals in this unmeasured section affect only the following note.

*staccato* *espressivo*

*p* *ff*

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff begins with a *staccato* marking and a *p* dynamic. The lower staff begins with a *p* dynamic. Both staves transition to a *ff* dynamic and an *espressivo* marking in the latter half of the system. The music consists of eighth-note patterns.

*poco rit.* ..... *Agitato* (♩=96)  
*pesante*

*ff*

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff starts with a *poco rit.* marking and a *pesante* marking, followed by a transition to *Agitato* (♩=96). The lower staff starts with a *ff* dynamic. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

*repeat twice (3 times in all)* *Rapidamente* (♩=ca.90)  
*f sempre*

*Red.*

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a *repeat twice (3 times in all)* marking and a *Rapidamente* (♩=ca.90) marking. The lower staff has a *f sempre* marking. The music includes sixteenth-note patterns and rests marked *Red.*

*senza pedale*

*cresc. sempre*

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a *senza pedale* marking. The lower staff has a *cresc. sempre* marking. The music features sixteenth-note patterns and rests.

*secco* *con pedale*

*ff*

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a *secco* marking. The lower staff has a *con pedale* marking. The music includes sixteenth-note patterns and rests.

*veloce* *pp* *ppp*

*una corda*  
*Red.*

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has a *veloce* marking. The lower staff has *pp* and *ppp* markings. The music features sixteenth-note patterns and rests. The system concludes with a *una corda* marking and a *Red.* marking.

*f subito* *p*  $\text{♩} = 135$

*tre corde non ped.* *con pedale*

*espressivo*  
*mf* *p*

*ped.* *ped. sempre*

*8va* *8va*

*loco*  
*pp* *pp*

*una corda con pedale*

*pp cresc.* *mf* *stringendo*

*tre corde molto pedale*

*f* *ff* *molto*

First system of a piano score. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 16/16. The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed sixteenth notes and some rests. Measure numbers 16, 17, 18, and 19 are indicated at the end of the staves.

Second system of the piano score. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The key signature has three sharps. The time signature is 16/16. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *meno f* is present in the first measure. Measure numbers 17, 18, 19, and 20 are indicated.

Third system of the piano score. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The key signature has three sharps. The time signature is 2/4. The music features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass clef. Dynamic markings include *ff* and *fff*. The word *etc.* is written above the staff. Measure numbers 20, 21, 22, and 23 are indicated.

Fourth system of the piano score. It consists of two staves, both in bass clef. The key signature has three sharps. The time signature is 2/4. The music features a steady eighth-note pattern. A dynamic marking of *pp* is present. Measure numbers 23, 24, 25, and 26 are indicated.

Fifth system of the piano score. It consists of two staves, both in bass clef. The key signature has three sharps. The time signature is 2/4. The music features a steady eighth-note pattern. A dynamic marking of *cresc. poco a poco* is present. Measure numbers 26, 27, 28, and 29 are indicated.

Sixth system of the piano score. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The key signature has three sharps. The time signature is 2/4. The music features a steady eighth-note pattern. Measure numbers 29, 30, 31, and 32 are indicated.



8va-----

(8va)-----

loco breve

fff

sfz

ff

Red. →

5 times

5 times

sempre diminuendo

sempre diminuendo

ppp sempre diminuendo

una corda

Repeat measure several times, lightening touch, until hammers are no longer striking strings

(Red.)-----