



GRACIAS PRODUCERS

ALÊ SIQUEIRA

Alê Siqueira (Brasil, 1972) was born with music in his veins. The son of a family of musicians, by five years old he was playing the guitar and by the age of thirteen he had produced his first album, which was one of his father's. Having completed a degree in Conducting and Composition, he became the youngest lecturer at the University of Sao Paulo. At the time he also took part in several experimental recordings. A vital figure in the development of a new generation of Brazilian musicians, Alê has worked with such prominent individuals as Chico César, Caetano Veloso, Bebel Gilberto and Tribalistas, as well as producing the working of musicians from other countries, including Roberto Fonseca and Cheikh Lô. In 2003, Siqueira won a Latin Grammy as co-producer of the album *Tribalistas*, and won the award again the following year for the album *Carlinhos Brown es Carlitos Marrón*. *Gracias* is not the first collaboration between Alê Siqueira and Omara Portuondo, he also produced several songs for the singer's previous album, *Flor de Amor*.

SWAMI JR.

Swami Jr. began studying classical guitar at the age of 12 with the maestro Alfredo Scupinari in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In the early 1980s Swami formed the groups Purple Xoro and It Moves with Everything, and toured Europe throughout the decade. He has worked with numerous artists including Daniela Mercury, Elba Ramalho, Virginia Rosa, Tom Zé, and has been a long-term member of Chico César's band. In 2000 he released his first album, *Imã*, an instrumental record with saxophonist Mané Silveira. In 2006 he was nominated for a Latin Grammy in the category of Sound Engineer, for the album *De uns Tempos pra Cá*, by Chico César. Since his participation on Omara Portuondo's previous album, *Flor de Amor*, Swami Jr has formed part of her touring band as guitarist and musical director. In 2007 he released his latest solo album *Outra Praia*. Swami Jr. is currently the musical director of Omara Portuondo's touring band, and co-producer of her new album, *Gracias*.