

# MUSICAL CURRICULUM

PEDRO MELO ALVES

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Pedro Melo Alves is one of the most unsettled new minds in Portugal, avid for something more, yet unknown.

Having been awarded with the Bernardo Sasseti composition award in 2016, distinguished as the National Musician of the Year in 2017 by jazz.pt and in 2019 with the Premio Internazionale Giorgio Gaslini he's been increasingly present in the European music scene, presenting his projects in events such as 12 Points Festival (2018), European Jazz Conference (2018) or Jazzahead (2019).

We hear on his music the exploration of fresh influences, naturally coming from a broad aesthetic horizon, where he crosses both modern and experimental music with the performing and visual arts.

Born in 1991, in Porto, Portugal, Pedro starts studying music in 2000. Enrolls at the Jazz Drums superior course in 2011 at the Porto Superior School of Music (ESMAE), having lessons with Michael Lauren and Carlos Azevedo, and leaves the course in 2013 to study classical and jazz piano with Abe Rabade and Daniel Bernardes. The participation on several workshops in Portugal, Spain and Italy led him to meet and study with some of the contemporary jazz scene figures, such as Danilo Perez, John Escreet and Ralph Alessi. Enters in 2015 on the Musical Composition superior course at the Lisbon Superior School of Music (ESML), where he studies with Sérgio Azevedo, José Luís Ferreira and António Pinho Vargas.

Today he plays as a drummer and composer in innovative modern jazz bands (Omniae Ensemble, The Rite of Trio, In Igma), contemporary electroacoustic projects (his solo O, CACO.MEAL or his trio symph), improvised music (with João Paulo Esteves da Silva, Luís Vicente, Theo Ceccaldi, Ricardo Jacinto, Jacqueline Kerrod, Pedro Branco), instrumental rock (Catacombe), soundtracks for Theatre and Dance (with Schaubühne's Peter Kleinert, Carlota Lagido or his own art collective Caos) and erudite composition.

*“(...) one of the most surprising, original and complete creators of Portuguese jazz of the last decade, (...) an accomplished composer and designer of singular universes.”*

Gonçalo Frota, 2020

*“(...) great, extraordinarily creative, visionary drummer/percussionist (...)”*

Bob Moses, 2020

*“(...) through him will pass the future of the creative portuguese music.”*

Nuno Catarino, jazz.pt, 2018

*“(...) vigorous shining Wunderkind of Portuguese jazz.”*

Henning Bolte, All About Jazz, 2018

*“(...) new ways to use percussion colours and with this incessant search for creative expression you can be rest assured that Mr Alves arrives at satisfying destinations by surprising, inventive and absorbing means.”*

Raul da Gama, 2018



## CAREER

\* selected highlights \*

### MUSIC PROJECTS

- 2020 | **THE BOOK OF SOUNDS**, solo piece by commission of Culturgest [composition, drums]
- 2020 | **DUO WITH JOÃO PAULO ESTEVES DA SILVA** by commission of gnration for Julho é de Jazz [drums]
- 2020 | **PREPARED DRUMS STUDIES** video series on solo experimental drumming, released as "Zero of Form" in audio format [composition, video, drums]
- 2019 | **SUPERMATRIX, you were born to fail** composition for solo marimba commissioned by RTP / Prémio Jovens Músicos [composition]
- 2019 | **IN IGMA** contemporary / chamber music septet commissioned by Fundação Serralves, released by Clean Feed [composition, drums]  
*w/ Aubrey Johnson, Mariana Dionísio, Beatriz Nunes, Mark Dresser, Eve Risser and Abdul Moimême*
- 2019 | **CACO.MEAL** experimental electronic power duo, supported by Gnration Laboratórios de Verão [composition, electronics, drums]  
*w/ João Carlos Pinto*
- 2019 | **PRETO MATE** improvised chamber music [drums]  
*w/ Ricardo Jacinto and Joana Guerra*
- 2019 | **DEAD CLUB BAND** electro rock pop [drums]
- 2019 | **CONUNDRUM SESSIONS** improvised music duo cycle [drums]  
*w/ Jacqueline Kerrod, João Gribo, Nuno Rebelo, Mário Costa, Pedro Branco, João Carlos Pinto, Mariana Dionísio, Albert Cirera*
- 2018 | **SYMPH** electroacoustic piano trio [composition, electronics, drums]  
*w/ José Diogo Martins and Hugo Antunes*
- 2018 | **LUÍS VICENTE TRIO** free jazz [drums]  
*w/ Hugo Antunes and Luís Vicente*
- 2018 | **SOLO "O"** drums and electronics solo, supported by Jazz ao Centro Clube [composition, drums and electronics]
- 2017 | **OMNIAE ENSEMBLE** avant-gard jazz, Bernardo Sasseti Composition Award  
*w/ José Soares, Xavi Sousa, Gileno Santana, Mané Fernandes, José Diogo Martins and Filipe Louro*
- 2012 | **THE RITE OF TRIO** Jazz Jambacore trio selected for 2018's 12 Points and 2019's Jazzahead [composition, drums]  
*w/ André B. Silva and Filipe Louro*
- 2013 | **CATACOMBE** Post-Rock instrumental band [drums, piano and composition]
- 2013 – 2014 | **EDUARDO CARDINHO QUINTET** modern jazz group, winner of Prémio Jovens Músicos 2013 [drums and arrangements]  
*w/ José Soares, André B. Silva, Eduardo Cardinho and Filipe Louro*

### MUSIC FOR DANCE, THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

- 2018 | Theatre play "A Boa Alma de Sé-Chuão" (The Good Person of Szechwan) directed by Peter Kleinert at Teatro Municipal Joaquim Benite, Almada [composition, piano, drums and musical direction]
- 2018 | Dance play "Carrossel", choreographed by Ana Renata Polónia [composition, drums]
- 2017 | Dance play "Jungle Red", choreographed by Carlota Lagido [composition, drums and electronics]
- 2011 | Performance with A Kills B, 2011, directed by João Ferro Martins as part of Guimarães, European Culture Capital 2011 [drums]

## DISTINCTIONS

- Premio Internazionale Giorgio Gaslini, 2019
- National Musician of the Year, 2017  
*jazz.pt*
- Bernardo Sasseti Composition Award, 2016  
*Sons da Lusofonia – Jazz Composition*
- Prémio Jovens Músicos Antena 2 2013  
*2nd award ex-aequo (no 1st given) – Jazz Combo*
- Yamaha PMS 2007, Madrid  
*1st iberian award – Solo Drums*

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- Musical Composition superior course  
*Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa 2015 - 2017*
- Jazz Drums superior course  
*Escola Superior de Música e Artes do Espectáculo do Porto 2011 - 2013*
- Jazz course – Drums and Piano  
*Escola Valentim de Carvalho do Porto 2010 - 2014*

For more visit [www.pedromeloalves.com/music-projects/](http://www.pedromeloalves.com/music-projects/)