

## Biography

*Anne Simoni* was born in Cambuquira, a small town in the mountainous state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. She grew up in a country environment, the daughter of a coffee farmer and a housewife. Her musical talents began to develop at the age of eight when she started taking piano lessons. At age twelve, she was the first woman snare soloist in her elementary school marching band. Always an avid listener of Brazilian music, the albums of Caetano Veloso, Tom Jobim, Milton Nascimento, Gilberto Gil and Maria Bethania, among others, were spinning incessantly in her record player.

Against her father's will, but with her mother's support, Anne's fifteenth birthday gift was the classical guitar she had long dreamed about. As soon as she learned a couple of major chords, she started writing her first songs. She taught herself how to play the guitar and later took private lessons in Belo Horizonte, the state capital, where she had moved for her high-school years. Her studies in the capital were interrupted by the sudden death of her father, at age sixteen, which prompted her to move back home. Still, she never gave up her music and started performing in festivals in the region, winning recognition and awards for her songs.

Searching to expand her network, after traveling to other parts of the country, in 1982, she moved to São Paulo where she performed in night clubs, bars and hotels, taking side jobs to help pay for her studies.

Anne had the opportunity to study at the acclaimed Zimbo Trio's school of music - CLAM, and to take voice lessons with vocal technician icon, Madalena de Paula. In 1993, the need for a slower-paced life brought her back to Minas where she continued to perform and compose. She taught music privately, while pursuing a second career in law, acquiring a degree in 1997.

Arriving in the United States in 1998, she spent her first two years in the country writing new songs about her experiences, simultaneously mastering the English language and perfecting her songwriting skills. Her goal of obtaining a master's degree in international law was put aside when she started to perform regularly. Initially, with Amor Tropical Band and later with her own band, she has performed in the Philadelphia area since 2001, in large and intimate venues including The Kimmel Center for The Performing Arts, Penn Presents at Annenberg Theater, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, Music Festivals at Penn's Landing and at Villanova University. In addition, Ms. Simoni has recently performed as a percussionist with the samba schools "Unidos da Philadelphia," and "Philasamba."

Her debut CD, titled *Minas Terra*, offers a mix of Brazilian rhythms and pop songs with broad appeal, sung in Portuguese and English. In December 2009, Anne Simoni was the first Brazilian to ever win first place in the world music category and third place overall in the 14th USA SONGWRITING COMPETITION with her song "Papagaio" which lead her to perform at the competition showcase in Austin, TX during SXSW in March 2010. With such an enthusiastic audience response during her performances and a welcoming city vibe, in August 2010 she made Austin her new home. In November 2010 she received the Triple A Artist of the Year Award at the 20th Los Angeles Music Awards. Simoni's songs have been getting considerable radio airplay in Brazil, USA and Europe.