

**José Neto (José Pires de Almeida Neto)**  
**guitarist, composer, musical director, bandleader**

José Neto is the bandleader for the Netoband, which has recorded and performed with the same personnel for twenty-five years. The Netoband consists of Frank Martin on keyboard, Gary Brown on bass, Celso Alberti on drums, and José Neto on guitar.

They began performing together in 1992 at the legendary Ronnie's Scotts club in London, where the band had a two week residence every year for twelve years. They recorded six albums together, including their most recent release, "Other Shore".

Neto has also released several solo recordings, as well as an award-winning documentary about his life and music, "The Man Behind the White Guitar".

Neto toured for 18 consecutive years with Steve Winwood, who in 2017 released his double live CD, "Winwood's Greatest Hits". Neto collaborated on nine songs with Winwood throughout the years they played and toured together. One of these compositions, "Fly", is included on this release.

Early in his musical career he and Brazilian master musician Filó Machado co-wrote "Jogra", which has been covered by countless musicians all around the world. The song became a standard taught in music schools and has been included in the Real Book.

Neto was a co-founder of the jazz fusion group Fourth World, with famed percussionist Airtó Moreira and singer Flora Purim, collaborating with them on many compositions and recordings.

Neto was born in São Paulo, Brazil and began playing guitar when he was very young. By the time he was twelve he was performing with bands, occasionally hiding from the police at nightclubs – until he was of legal age. He graduated from the São Paulo Academy of Music with a focus in classical guitar.

In 1978 Neto moved to New York, where he auditioned for the legendary Harry Belafonte, becoming his guitar player and eventual Musical Director. The long-lasting musical friendship endured for the rest of Belafonte's life.

With Steve Winwood Neto recorded "About Time", "Nine Lives", "Greatest Hits Live", and the DVDs "Soundstage" and "Austin City Limits". With Harry Belafonte he recorded "Loving You Is Where I Belong", "Belafonte 89", "Paradise in Gazankulu", and the DVD "Global Carnival".

Neto has also performed and recorded with: Eric Clapton; Herbie Mann; Jim Capaldi; Jorge Dalto, with whom he recorded "Urban Oasis"; Paquito D'Rivera, with whom he recorded "Explosion"; Tania Maria, with whom he recorded "Come With Me"; Carlos Santana; the Allman Brothers, and many other world class musicians.