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## Full Biography

One of the most talented guitarists from Brazil, André Simão has received several awards in Brazil's top musical competitions namely: 1st Prize in the Villa-Lobos Guitar Competition, 1st Prize in the 6th Prêmio Nabor Pires Camargo, 1st Prize in the Dilermando Reis Guitar Competition, 1st Prize in the Souza Lima Guitar Competition (São Paulo), 1st prize in classical music category and popular music category of the IX Projeto Nascente (sponsored by Abril Publishers and University of São Paulo), 2nd Prize in the Vital Medeiros International Competition, 3rd Prize in the Francisco Mignone Young Interpreters Festival (only guitarist awarded). In 2011, he was awarded with the 3rd Prize in the Chamber Music Guitar Competition Savarez-Corelli - University Mozarteum Salzburg, Austria.

His first solo concert was at the age of 16 and since then he has been performing as a soloist and with musical chamber groups throughout Brazil and countries like Germany, Spain, Italy, Hungary, South Korea and Suriname. In 2006, he recorded his first solo album, titled "Recital", with works from Sylvius Leopold Weiss, Mauro Giuliani, Alexandre Tansman and the Brazilians Radamés Gnattali and Guerra-Peixe, which had received excellent reviews from specialist magazines in Germany and Brazil. He was a member of the Ibirá Guitar Quartet from 1998 to 2006, which in 2004 released an album including his own transcriptions from works by Bach and Haydn, as well as original works by Torroba and Gnattali. In 2004, he was a finalist in the "Furnas Geração Musical Competition", which gave him opportunity to perform throughout Brazil and also to participate in the recording of the "CD Furnas Geração Musical".

He was interviewed and had programs devoted to him in highly regarded radio broadcasts in Brazil, namely Radio Cultura FM in São Paulo (program The Brazilian Guitar, with Fábio Zanon), Radio Mec from Rio de Janeiro (program Music and musicians from Brazil, with Lauro Gomes) and in University of São Paulo (USP) Radio (program Guitar in concert times, with Edelson Gloeden).

Born in the city of Taubaté in 1980, André Simão started learning to play the guitar at the age of 9 and then initiated his musical studies at the Municipal School of Music in his city where he had guitar classes with Sheiyla Mara de Moraes and Mário Cesar Dias. In 2003, he completed his bachelor's degree in guitar studies at São Paulo University, where he received tuition from the guitarist and professor Edelson Gloeden. From 2003 to 2006, he received tuition from the guitarist Fábio Zanon.

André went on to receive scholarships to continue developing his artistic abilities attending several music festivals in Brazil and in other countries, where he played in masterclasses from classical guitarists on the international scene, such as: Leo Brouwer, Abel Carlevaro, David Russell, Stefano Grondona, Pavel Steidl, Paul Galbraith, Carlo Marchione, Roberto Aussel, Aniello Desiderio, Ricardo Gallén, Carlos Bonell, among others. In August of 2002, he received a scholarship to attend the "XLV Curso Universitário e Internacional Música en Compostela" in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, where he

attended guitar classes by Jose Luiz Rodrigo. In 2005, he attended the “First London International Guitar Festival” and “IX Curso de Guitarra Ciudad de Coria”, Spain. In 2008, he received another scholarship at the Minguet Quartett’s chamber music masterclass in Palazzo Ricci, in Montepulciano-Italy, where he performed as soloist the Mauro Giuliani Guitar Concert opus 30, with this remarkable german string quartet.

As a guitar teacher, he taught in several institutions in Brazil, like University of São Paulo (Diffusion Cultural course), social project Eduardo Marliere and at the Municipal School of Music in Taubaté. André taught also at Musikschule Pfreimd e.V., in Germany.

In the beginning of 2007, André Simão was awarded a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) scholarship for post-graduate program in Germany. He also received a scholarship from KAAD, which enabled him to complete his postgraduate studies with the guitarist Franz Halász, at “Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg”. In 2010 he received the “Meisterklassediplom” from this institution, which is the maximum degree in the field of musical performance in Germany.

Currently, André Simão lives in Germany where he is developing his artistic career and teaching guitar. In October 2010 he began the Master Studies of Arts at the renowned University Mozarteum Salzburg, Austria.

## Prizes

- 6°. Savarez-Corelli Gitarre-Kammermusik Wettbewerb (6th Savarez-Corelli Guitar-Chamber Music Competition) - Universität Mozarteum Salzburg - Austria, 2011 – 3rd Prize.
- “XLIV Certamen Internacional de Guitarra Francisco Tárrega” (XLIV Francisco Tárrega International Guitar Competition) - Benicássim, Spain, 2010 - semifinalist.
- 6°. Prêmio Nabor Pires Camargo (6th Nabor Pires Camargo Competitiion) – Indaiatuba, Brazil, 2007 - 1st Prize
- I Concurso Internacional de violão Vital Medeiros (First International Vital Medeiros Guitar Competition) - Mogi das Cruzes, Brazil, 2007 - 2nd Prize
- I Concurso de Violão da Faculdade Cantareira (Cantareira College Guitar Competition)
  - São Paulo, Brazil, 2006 – 2nd Prize.
- Francisco Mignone Young Interpreters Festival, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2005 - 3rd Prize (only guitarist awarded).
- IX Concurso Nacional de Violão Musicalis (9th Musicalis National Guitar Competition) - São Paulo, 2005 - 2nd Prize

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- VII Concurso Nacional Villa-Lobos (Villa-Lobos National Competition) - Vitória, Brazil, 2004 – 1st Prize.
- II Concurso Nacional de Intérpretes de Dilermando Reis (2<sup>nd</sup> Dilermando Reis National Guitar Competition) - Guaratinguetá, Brazil, 2003 - 1st Prize
- Popular music category award in Projeto Nascente – Editora Abril and USP (Nascente Project – Abril Publishers and University of São Paulo - USP) - São Paulo, 2002.
- Concurso Nacional “Cidade de Araçatuba” (National Chamber music competition City of Araçatuba) Brazil, 2001 - commendation.
- Classical music category award in Projeto Nascente – Editora Abril and USP (Nascente Project – Abril Publishers and University of São Paulo - USP) - São Paulo, 1999.
- Concurso Nacional de Violão Souza Lima (National Guitar Competition Souza Lima) - São Paulo, Brazil, 1998 - 1st Prize at the chamber music category.
- Youth category I Concurso Nacional de Violão Musicalis (Musicalis National Guitar Competition) - São Paulo, 1997 - 2nd. Prize – up to 17 years.