Rodrigo Pinheiro

Pianist, improviser and composer. Lisbon.

Photo: Petra Cvelbar

"Rodrigo Pinheiro's work resides at the intersection of free improvisation and high modernism, with quicksilver meetings of design, impulse and chance."

Stuart Broomer, Point of Departure

Booking
contact@rodrigo-pinheiro.com
rodrigo-pinheiro.com

Biography

Rodrigo Pinheiro is a pianist, improviser and composer based in Lisbon. Over more than two decades he has become a central figure in the Portuguese free improvisation, experimental music and free jazz scene, notably as a member of RED trio. His recordings, released on labels such as Clean Feed and NoBusiness, have been singled out among the best jazz albums of the year by publications including The Wire, The New York City Jazz Record, Público and Jazz.pt.

He began his musical studies at the age of five at the conservatory in Covilhã, Portugal. For many years he has studied with pianist Anne Kaasa, and classical training remains a constant reference in his work. He deepened his study of improvisation with Carlos Zíngaro, Peter Kowald, Günter Müller, Nuno Rebelo and Patrick Brennan. He has collaborated with musicians such as John Butcher, Axel Dörner, Nate Wooley, Joe McPhee, Thomas Lehn, Lotte Anker, Mattias Ståhl, Keir Neuringer and Peter Evans, performing in venues and festivals across Europe and the United States. He also writes music for film and theater.

In 2022 he founded Phonogram Unit, a Lisbon-based label dedicated to experimental, improvised and electro-acoustic music.

Current projects

Solo

Piano, organ, harpsichord and electronics

hyper.object quintet

João Almeida (trumpet), Carlos Santos (electronics), Hernâni Faustino (double bass), João Valinho (drums)

Linae trio

João Almeida (trumpet, electronics), Vasco Furtado (drums)

Rhizome trio

Daniel Levin (cello), Hernâni Faustino (double bass)

Duo with Pedro Carneiro

Pedro Carneiro (marimba, vibraphone)

Transition Unit trio

José Lencastre (saxophones), Dirk Serries (guitar)

Line-ups, technical riders and booking per project: rodrigo-pinheiro.com/projects

Label: Phonogram Unit

Press

"One recent masterwork is the brilliantly counterintuitive inter.independence by the Pinheiro-led quintet hyper.object."

Stuart Broomer, The New York City Jazz Record

"The pianist brings a classically informed elegance and harmonic expansiveness [...]"

Stewart Smith, The Wire

"Among many free pianists, there's a certain tendency to bombast, a trait which Pinheiro happily lacks."

Stuart Broomer, The Free Jazz Collective

"Pianist Rodrigo Pinheiro alternates ferocious fusillades of notes that skirt the density of white noise with more calculated constructions."

Derek Taylor, Dusted

"Pianist Pinheiro's imagination shooting off into brief, blazing ideas like rockets in a deep blue sky."

Daniel Spicer, Jazzwise

"The entirety of this beautiful CD is covered in a veil of melancholy emanating from Rodrigo Pinheiro's pianism, which extends to even the most vibrant interplay."

Massimo Ricci, Beyond The Dust

Selected recordings

2026	**Sheets of Sound**, Transition Unit · Phonogram Unit
2025	**Parallel Realities II** · Timbuktu Records
2024	**Face Value**, Transition Unit · A New Wave of Jazz
2023	**Linae**, Linae · Phonogram Unit
2021	**Kinetic Études**, with Pedro Carneiro · Phonogram Unit
2026	**Multiplicities**, Rhizome · Thödol Records
2025	**Live at SMUP** · A New Wave of Jazz
2023	**Rhizome**, Rhizome · Phonogram Unit
2022	**inter.independence**, hyper.object · Phonogram Unit
2011	**Empire**, RED trio + John Butcher · NoBusiness

BOOKING

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PRESS PHOTOS

High-resolution photos, free for press use with credit

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RIDERS

Line-ups and technical riders on each project page

rodrigo-pinheiro.com/projects