

Excellent Brazilian tones from Danish pianist Pianist

Steen Rasmussen's familiarity with the Brazilian music is clearly expressed on the excellent album 'Primeiro amor'. 5 of 6 stars

By BORIS RABINOWITSCH

Through the many years, Steen Rasmussen has participated as pianist in the singer Silvana Malta Group, he has gained a deep familiarity with the Brazilian music. It comes as also reflected in this CD, where Rasmussen himself appears as a leader.

An excellent release that not only lets us see him as a pianist in a scale and at a level that I certainly have not heard it before, but where he as the author of six of the CD in all ten numbers have also created a series of melodies that any Brazilian would welcome with open arms.

This applies both rhythmically moving spots as 'Aito's Song' and 'Chorinho', accompanied by Rasmussen's permanent staff, electric bassist Torben Westergaard, drummer Jonas Johansen and percussionist Jacob Andersen and - "Airtio's Song" - with Christina von Bülow on the flute as a guest, and a ballad like 'Primeiro amor'. Here it is Silvana Malta, which lends the song its urgent voice, as she also makes it to Antonio Carlos Jobim 'Eu amo tu'.

Dreamlike state In 'Life' leads Rasmussen us from one extreme to the other, as he after the introduction that brings us into a dreamlike state, turns into a lively pulse, giving impetus to Lis Wessberg warm sounding trombone

Rasmussen relaxed swinging 'Aint She So Sweet' and Jobim 'Chovendo no Roseira' here in 7/4-takt are even a couple of fine contributions, while at some point it is close to running amok for Rasmussen Joao Donato 'Sambou sambou'.

In turn, his booming, yet elegantly restrained piano playing of Carlos Lyra "Coisa mais linda" some of the most breathtaking, one can imagine. And the same is Westergaard's solo in the same issue. Electric bass master, Steve Swallow, could not have done it more beautiful.