

# Mike Tracy

## *Tracings*

Sea Breeze Jazz SB-3062

As Professor of Music and Jazz at the University of Louisville School of Music in Louisville, Kentucky, Michael Tracy teaches saxophone and serves as Director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program. Throughout his 28-year performing career, Mike has shared the stage as soloist with numerous all-stars. This evolving list includes Buddy Rich, J.J. Johnson, Ella Fitzgerald, the Four Tops, the Temptations, Johnny Mathis, Bobby Shew, Jerry Coker, Pat La Barbera, and David Liebman.

With its light Brazilian air, "**August 5**" begins the album by showcasing Mike's fluid tenor saxophone tone in a breezy, straight-ahead affair. Solos by bassist Tyrone Wheeler and pianist Steve Allee add to the swinging mix. Rique Pantoja's "**Melancia**" oozes with a rural charm, as Mike sways on soprano saxophone to a light, samba beat. His soulful interpretation of the song is abetted by Tyrone and pianist Renato Vasconcellos, along with the blues-based guitar sounds of Pat Lentz. Singer Kathy Jordan adds sensual, wordless vocals to Milton Nascimento's "**Vera Cruz**," as Mike weaves a contemporary tale on soprano with overt expression. The song's light, samba mood and pastel characteristics carry a firm sense of the festival that can be found in every memorable landscape. "**September 15**" carries Mike's tenor along a somber path in memory of pianist Bill Evans. Lush harmony and a relaxed, quartet format, along with Renato's lovely piano interlude, brings home the true meaning of modern jazz roots. "**Favela**," which means "ghetto" in Brazil, employs a fiery, partido alto rhythm to mesmerize its audience. Mike's tenor captures the ear here, and again on "**Balaio**," which returns the session to its soothing, Brazilian beachfront theme. "**Tracing**," the album's title track, combines the inner drama of mainstream jazz with the festive atmosphere that surrounds the session. Mike's soulful tenor caresses "**Tracing**" with knowing wisdom before turning to the album's closing number, "**Once I Loved**."

Working with a stellar quartet, Mike brings joy to the mainstream jazz world through lovely, Brazilian landscapes.

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Jazz

This recording is now available on CD (SB-3062) at \$15. list. Bar code is - 0-17231-30622-1  
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