

MIKE TRACY BRAZILIAN ENSEMBLE

Mike Tracy – saxophones

Diego Lyra Medeiros - piano

Brandon Coleman – guitar

Andrey Junca – bass

Zack Kennedy – drums/percussion

Brazilian music is the result of the fusion of European music brought by the Portuguese, African music that came with the slaves in the 16th century, and native Indian music that was already an established form on the continent when the colonization process started. Although often confused with the Spanish influenced music from Central America like the calypso, rumba, salsa and other variations, Brazilian music is very different. The rhythms are far more subtle and developed from geographical regions within the country. These very diverse regions, with their cultural differences, influenced Brazil's exciting music and musicians. For example the Bossa-Nova is from the southeastern, European influenced region, while Samba, Baião, Partido-alto, and Afoxé are the main rhythms from the north and northeastern regions which are rich in African culture and based on dance, percussion, and wind instruments. During the 1960's, Brazilian-influenced music became well known all over the United States. The Bossa-Nova was popularized by jazz saxophonist Stan Getz. Through Getz, the music of Brazil's most famous composer Antonio Carlos Jobim (Tom Jobim) became an important influence on American music and music throughout the world.

The MIKE TRACY BRAZILIAN ENSEMBLE celebrates the music of Brazilian masters and contemporary composers/artists. The ensemble specializes in performing the many varied styles and rhythms that are unique to Brazil. The ensemble is lead by saxophonist Mike Tracy, Director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at the University of Louisville, and features Brazilians musicians pianist Diego Lyra Medeiros and bassist Andrey Junca. Joining the group are guitarist Brandon Coleman and drummer/percussionist Zack Kennedy (who studied in Brazil for an extended time). Music by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Hermeto Pascoal, Moacyr Santos, João Donato, Gilberto Gil, Egberto Gismonti, Djalma Ferreira, Dominginhos and more will be performed.