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Brazilian Music - Rita Lee, Skank, Carolina, Porto, da Mata

Brazilian music - Rita Lee, Ana Carolina, Fernando Porto, Skank, and Vanessa da Mata.

The travel industry has so many memorable destinations, hotels, and restaurants, but some of our most lasting memories are of that special evening with someone you love, and I know that music was involved. One such evening for my wife and I was when we went to the Café Carlyle at the Carlyle hotel in New York, where Mr. Bobby Short was presiding at his piano. I don't remember the food, but I do remember a fantastic evening of music, laughs and pure entertainment. It is a memory that continues to be a part of us as we bring out Bobby's CD to relive that enchanting evening. We thank Bobby Short for the memories, and for a lifetime of making people feel special. In memory of Bobby Short 1924 -2005, may the band keep playing.

Brazilian Music – the beat goes on.

This month I have 5 great selections from the land of energy, fun, and rhythm – Brazil.

My first selection comes from a Brazilian rocker, **Rita Lee**, who has been around awhile, but with her recent live release **Rita Lee - MTV Aovivo**, she shows that time has stood still. As Luxury Experience magazine readers know, I love live music either heard in-person or listening to a CD of a live concert. Rita compiled a set of tracks that showcases her voice and her showmanship; she really loves her audience and you can sense it from each song. From classics from her past (e.g. *Saãde*, *Mamãe natureza*, *Esse Tal de Roque Enrow*, *Amore Sexoto*) to rock classics from the Beatles, the Ramones, Caetano Valoso and Gilberto Gil (e.g. *Penis et Circenses*, *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*, and *Eu Quero Ser Sedado (I Wanna be Sedated)*) this is a great release.

My second selection comes from a singer who made her debut singing on Brazilian soap operas before making it big with her release in 2004 entitled **Ana Carolina estampado**. I did not review this release, but suffice to say this is an excellent release from a female vocalist that you will hear more about. The release I would like to introduce you to is one of her earlier releases entitled just **Ana Carolina**. You could see from this early release she had a great voice and a presence as she covered some originals, as well as cover tunes. Though not as structured and tight as her **Ana Carolina estampado** release this is none-the-less a great release with tracks such as *tô saindo*, *alguém me disse, nada pra mim*, *tancado*, and *armazém*.

The third selection is a follow-up release from **Fernanda Porto** entitled **Giramundo**, and follows up her extremely popular release entitled **Fernanda Porto**. Fernanda ventures away from her previous release with selections that lack the initial draw of **Fernanda Porto**. It leans on a samba rhythm, which is very nice to hear, and I applaud her duets and expansion of her talents into new directions. Though this release did not "grab" me as quickly as her previous release, I have come to enjoy the tracks *Giramundo*, *Toda Viva*, *Outra Margem do Rio* and *Mundo Cane*, and the samba beat, found in some of the tracks, was very intriguing.

The fourth selection comes from an old favorite of mine, **Skank** and is entitled **radiola**. For me Skank has a sound that grows on you. They inter-mix rock, jazz and period sounds of the 70's and 80's in their music, which shows the depth of the group to not only handle the different music, but to feel comfortable to venture into so many different genres and styles. For other reviews on Skank please see the **Music Scene** article Brazil. Skank mixes another great release with original tracks (*Um Mais Um*, *Amores Imperfeitos*) with some old favorites (*Três Lados*, *Vou Deixar* and *Balada do Amor Inabalável*) and a special compilation of a Gilberto Gil song (*Vamos Fugir*).

I left the best for last with a release by **Vanessa da Mata** entitled **Essa Boneca tem Manual**. There is something about female Brazilian singers that I just love; I believe it is a combination of their vocals, the beauty of Brazilian Portuguese, and of course the music; and Vanessa da Mata combines all three elements to perfection. This release was a gift from my good friend and Brazilian Gicelia Pascon, and as the saying goes, "this is a gift that keeps giving." The tracks include *Ainda Bem*, *Eu Sou Neguinha*, *Musica*, the title track *Essa Boneca tem Manual*, *Joãozinho*, along with *Não Chore*, *Homem*, *Historia de Uma Gata*, *Vem, Zé*, *Ela x Ele na Cidade Sem Fim*, and *Al, Al, Al...*

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