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Quick Hits

UOU - Home

Myron Walden - Countryfied

The Dave Liebman Big Band - As Always

Glawdys N' Dee - Lyannaj

Brad Goode - Tight Like This

Negroni's Trio - Just Three

Patrick Cornelius - Fierce

Lindsey Horner - Undiscovered Country

Michael William Gilbert - I Can See From Here

Jan Garbarek The Hilliard Ensemble - Officium

Novum

Bossa Brasil and Mauricio de Souza Group - Here,

There

Chie Imaizumi - A Time of New Beginnings Sam Fazio - The Songs We Love

Hadley Caliman Pete Christlieb - Reunion
The Glenious Inner Planet

In which the beleaguered reviewer attempts to make some headway into the mounds of CDs perfect composer for this group - and this excellent piece was composed specifically for the Hilliard Ensemble in 2003. Combining the free-floating saxophone of Garbarek with the voices of the Ensemble was a brilliant conception and it is a pleasure to hear the group continuing to explore new directions on this spiritually-charged release. www.ecmrecords.com

Bossa Brasil and Mauricio de Souza Group -- "Here, There"

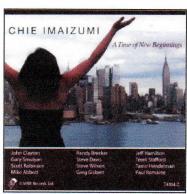
(Pulsa Music)
Brasilia-born
drummer Mauricio de
Souza is mainstay on
the NYC jazz scene
as a busy sideman
playing both jazz and
Brazilian music while
also leading two
bands of his own. On
his new album de



Souza cleverly splits the album between both bands, while also playing both genres. The first six songs are Brazilian covers by artists such as Tom Jobim, Hermeto Pascoali, Baden Powell and Milton Nasimento, performed by de Souza's Bossa Brasil group. Meanwhile, the second half are mostly jazz standards by Joe Henderson, Vernon Duke, Chick Corea and Cedar Walton, with one original (the title track) by the drummer bridging the halves. Making matters a bit easier is the fact that the same players play in both configurations, in settings ranging from trio to sextet, with only de Souza and the amazing Morrie Louden on bass appearing on every track. The sprightly "Bebe" starts things off with an interesting quartet of piano (Carl Viggiani) and vibes (Jerry Weir) joing de Souza and Louden. Meanwhile, the waltzing "Chovendo na Roseira" offers up the first of several excellent bass solos by the underrated Louden. The always amazing Mike Stern guests on "Vera Cruz" adding some fusion guitar, while in yet another twist Andrew Beals and Gregory Rivkin add alto sax and trumpet respectively to the vibes-driven "Imagem" (another great Louden solo here as well). Meanwhile Baden Powell's 'Consolação" is a highlight with energetic trio

interplay between de Souza, Louden and Viggiani and a colorful solo from de Souza. The second half's movement into more standard jazz fare (albeit with interesting arrangements that include further rhyhmic adventures) begins with the vibesdrenched title track, before Stern returns to launch into some incdnairy riffs on a memorable version of Henderson's "Inner Urge" (another killer Louden solo! I can't say enough about the talented bassist). "I Can't Get Started" is a sultry showcase for Rivkin's trumpet and Beals' alto over the piano/vibes combo that started things off, while Corea's "Windows" drops the vibes. The album ends with version of Cedar Walton's "Firm Roots" on which Rivkin sits out. An engaging and enjoyable demostration of de Souza's ability to exist both here and there in both the Brazilian and straight-ahead jazz worlds.

www.mauriciosouzajazz.com/



Chie Imaizumi -- "A Time of New Beginnings"

(Capri Records LTD)
Japanese-American
composer Chie
Imaizumi believes in
taking a positive
approach to her
writing and it shows
clearly on her

sophomore effort A Time of New Beginnings. Imaizumi - a former award-winning organist in her native Japan, switched her focus primarily to composition while attending Berklee. Releasing the acclaimed Unfailing Kindness in 2007, she also was named a "Rising Star Composer" by Downbeat that year. The lineup on this big band recording - including trumpeter Randy Brecker, bassist John Clayton, reed man Steve Wilson, bari sax player Gary Smulyan, trombonist Steve Davis and trumpeter Terrell Stafford speaks volumes as to the reputation she has built. The album opens with the bright and cheerful "My Heartfelt Gratitude" which features bouyant piano by Tamir Handelman and pleasing soprano sax by Wilson. Brecker only appears on "Information Overload," but he makes the most of the opportunity --