

= Brazilian Dreams =

Brazilian Dreams is a live album by Cuban jazz performer Paquito D 'Rivera . It was recorded at the Manchester Craftsmen 's Guild in Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania , between April 26 and 29 , 2001 , and released by MCG Jazz on August 27 , 2002 . The album features guest performances by the American vocal group New York Voices and trumpeter Claudio Roditi . In the United States , it peaked at number 22 on Billboard 's Top Jazz Albums chart .

Produced by Jay Ashby , the album features seven songs written by Brazilian performers including Antônio Carlos Jobim , Luiz Bonfá , João Donato and Caetano Veloso , and three original songs , and was conceived as a tribute to the music of Brazil of which D 'Rivera has always been an admirer . Brazilian Dreams received mixed reviews by critics , some praising the performers and the musical selection , and others being critical about the lack of improvement on the arrangements on the classic songs of the genre included . The album earned D 'Rivera the Latin Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album .

= = Background and release = =

Cuban saxophonist and clarinet player Paquito D 'Rivera decided to record an album paying tribute to Brazilian music after being invited by several Brazilian performers to play their native music . D 'Rivera also featured in *Americanos : Latino Life in the United States* , a 2000 documentary produced by American actor Edward James Olmos , representing Brazil . " I feel a great passion for the culture and music of Brazil , and it gives me pleasure to declare publicly that my heart is half Brazilian , " D 'Rivera declared on his autobiography *My Sax Life* (2005) . The album features the American group New York Voices since D 'Rivera has always been an admirer of vocal quartets and wanted to " kill two birds with one stone " . He further explained that in Cuba " musicians listened to radio stations from Miami mostly for the jingles sung by gringo vocal groups . " *Brazilian Dreams* was released by MCG Jazz on August 27 , 2002 and was the tenth album recorded by the Manchester Craftsmen 's Guild , following *A Nancy Wilson Christmas* by Nancy Wilson , *Joe Williams Presents : Nicole Yarling Live at The Manchester Craftsman Guild* and the *Dizzy Gillespie All @-@ Stars 's Things to Come* , among others .

= = Content = =

Brazilian Dreams was recorded live at the Manchester Craftsmen 's Guild in Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania between April 26 and 29 , 2001 . The album includes ten songs and features Kim Nazarian , Lauren Kinhan , Darmon Meader and Peter Eldridge of the New York Voices as backing vocalists . Performer Claudio Roditi is also featured playing trumpet , while D 'Rivera plays clarinet . Most of the songs included are written by Brazilian songwriters paying homage to the music of the country ; the setlist includes eight songs written by Antônio Carlos Jobim , Gene Lees , Luiz Bonfá , Matt Dubey , João Donato , Caetano Veloso and three original songs by Roditi and D 'Rivera . The first track , " *Corcovado* " , includes a " vocal texture " inspired by Brazilian vocal groups Quarteto em Cy , MPB4 and The Swingle Singers . " *One for Tom* " is based on " *Se todos fossem iguais a voce* " by Jobim and features a tenor sax solo by Darmon Meader . " *Meu Amigo* " is supported by D 'Rivera 's clarinet and backing vocals in " an exquisite interplay of harmonies and solo sax with the slightest bass . " " *Retrato Em Branco E Prêto* " features Nazarian performing vocals in Portuguese language .

= = Reception and accolades = =

Brazilian Dreams received mixed reviews from critics . Paula Edelstein of AllMusic gave the album four stars out of five , praising the performer skills " leading his own ensembles or playing with renowned jazz masters , Paquito D 'Rivera continues to make a decidedly fresh imprint on Latin and Brazilian jazz . " William Grim of All About Jazz wrote that *Brazilian Dreams* was " a very satisfying

album " hoping that D 'Rivera , Roditi and the New York Voices record another album based on Brazilian music due to the large extension of the musical catalog of the country . C. Michael Bailey , also of All About Jazz , stated that the album " is superb and fantastic in every way . " Morrice Blackwell of Jazz Review named the album a " musical match made in heaven " , praising the performers and the sound quality , considering that it is a live performance . Blackwell also commented on the Manchester Craftsmen 's Guild which " continually offer a complete jazz experience . " On a second review by Jazz Review , Lee Prosser referred to the album as a " classic Brazilian music collection ... something all jazz listeners can appreciate , enjoy , and want to have in their CD library collections " , to finally declare that it was " one of the very finest collections of music released in the year 2002 . " Maurice Bottomley of PopMatters wrote that the record is " gentle , cultured , and perhaps overly refined , but it is very accomplished and does actually swing , " further commenting that " it is also truer to the spirit of bossa nova in its first North American flowering than some will care to admit . "

However , Leila Cobo of Billboard magazine was critical about the fact that some tracks do not add much to the originals , but the album " stays merely pleasant , notably in ' Desafinado ' and ' Manhã de Carnaval / Gentle Rain ' . " On a negative review by Mike Quinn of JazzTimes stated that the album should be renamed " Brazilian Nightmares " a it is " impossible to escape the insipid vocal stylings of the ' New York Voices ' or the cliched horn arrangements that can be heard on bossa nova records going back as far as the ' 50s . " Quinn was also critical of the repertoire since " Brazil has produced more music than the usual 20 or 30 tunes that keep getting led to the butcher 's block . "

Brazilian Dreams reached number 35 at the CMJ Jazz Albums chart and peaked at number 22 on Billboard 's Top Jazz Albums chart . D 'Rivera was awarded the Latin Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album at the 4th Latin Grammy Awards , and with this recognition became the only performer to receive accolades in the Jazz and Classical music fields , after his album Historia del Soldado (Histoire du soldat by Igor Stravinsky) earned the Best Classical Album at the same ceremony .

= = Track listing = =

Track listing adapted from AllMusic .

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from AllMusic .