



Brasuka A Vida Com Paixão

OUTSIDE IN MUSIC

★★★★

Brasuka's lead vocalist and keyboard player, Rosana Eckert, says the sextet's international flavor is due in part to members from Cuba, Uruguay and Puerto Rico. The Dallas-based band has been together for 10 years but, since they all have teaching jobs, planning gigs and rehearsals is problematic. Everyone in the band contributed compositions and production to the album, making this debut delightful.

Free-flowing arrangements and superb

Brandon Goldberg In Good Time

SELF RELEASE

★★★★

This piano prodigy, who recently scored a hat-trick in winning all three categories in the junior-high division of DownBeat's annual Student Music Awards, should be commended for recording his sophomore album well before his sophomore year of high school. But call it anything but sophomoric, for Goldberg, at 15, is already in possession of gifts many fail to ever acquire: an unassailable technique, advanced harmonic understanding, a deep sense of swing and, most impressively, a clarity and plethora of ideas executed to near-perfection.

The young artist has been given every chance to succeed with well-seasoned sidemen, led by the late, great drummer-mentor Ralph Peterson, with bassist Luques Curtis, saxophonist Stacy Dillard and trumpeter Josh Evans. Of course, any teenage basketball player might fare well if inserted into the starting five of the Los Angeles Lakers, yet Goldberg shoots from the hip with creativity and confidence as he comps assertively behind the horns, spars rhythmically with Peterson and even takes a few dangerous but enthralling risks. His original works affirm the hard-bop tradition of Peterson's mentor Art Blakey, especially the uptempo burner "Ninety-

musicianship make it difficult to pick a favorite track. Notable moments include "Deusa Do Meu Carnaval," a samba that opens with the band singing smooth harmonies to accent the melody, then ramps up into a free-flowing, percussion-heavy jam, featuring Daniel Pardo's flute and melodica and the band's exuberant scat singing. "A Vida Com Paixão" rides a reggae pulse, provided by Eckert's piano and Tom Burchill's electric guitar.

The subtle rhythm of "Marakandombe" combines Uruguayan candombe and maracatu, a percussion-driven, African-influenced music from Northeastern Brazil. Eckert sings a lilting scat hook, over a cadence provided by the band's clapping hands, cowbells and congas, highlighted by a metallic guitar solo from Burchill. The album closes with a rock arrangement of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." It's energetic, but doesn't quite fit with the complex international rhythms that make up the rest of the album. —*j. poet*

A Vida Com Paixão: Samba Jiji; A Vida Com Paixão; Road To Hermeto; Marakandombe; Deusa Do Meu Carnaval; Reina's Song; Praia Felix; La Higuera; Confundido; Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band. (47:44)

Personnel: Rosana Eckert, vocals, keyboards, production; Ricardo Bozas, percussion, production; Denny Robinson, keyboards, piano, vocals, production; Tom Burchill, acoustic and electric guitar, production; Brian Warthen, bass, percussion, production; Jose Aponte, drums, percussion, production; Daniel Pardo, flutes, melodica, production; Drew Zarembe, flute, tenor saxophone; Jeff Robbins, tenor saxophone.

Ordering info: outsideinmusic.com



Six," where Goldberg's virtuosity shines.

If any criticism is to be levied, it might be that Goldberg draws too much on past and current masters. But given how many in his age group are posting bad copycat renditions of hip-hop dance moves on TikTok, we should feel some charity toward the youngster, along with anticipation of an impending realization of his true, artistic self. —*Gary Fukushima*

In Good Time: Authority; Circles; Time; Nefertiti; Monk's Dream; Stella By Starlight; El Procrastinador; Someone To Watch Over Me; Ninety-Six; Send In The Clowns. (106:47)

Personnel: Brandon Goldberg, piano; Ralph Peterson, drums; Josh Evans, trumpet; Stacy Dillard, tenor saxophone; Antoine Drye, trumpet (10).

Ordering info: brandongoldbergpiano.com



Carlos Henriquez The South Bronx Story

TIGER TURN

★★★★

Bronx-born novelist Jerome Charyn has a line that might help here: "Stillborn love notes provide small satisfaction." Carlos Henriquez, who launched on the scene half a decade ago with *The Bronx Pyramid*, has delivered a full-on love letter, the kind that stands at the foot of your stairs and yells its passion up at you. Charyn saw his Bronx as a place of "monstrosities" and petty hoodlums. The new Bronx is a meeting place of boisterous tradition and "improvement," tragedy and optimism, and while the story of Robert Moses and the Cross Bronx Expressway may be of mainly local concern, the music is big, a better word than universal here.

Listening to Henriquez, on this new record, it is harder than ever to avoid comparison with Charles Mingus. The interwoven soneo on "Moses On The Cross," the passionate evocation of activist "Mama Lorraine" Montenegro, co-founder of United Bronx Parents, and of Cornell "Black Benji" Benjamin who tried to forge peace among the Bronx gangs: These merge into a complex composite portrait of the district, a place coming alive in music and singing its poignant, defiant songs. Henriquez had shown his grasp of idiom in his tribute *Dizzy Con Clave*, but here he takes a step beyond homage and into large-scale composition, Mingus-like in reach and barely contained energy, brimming with the humor that the other great bassist sometimes hid too far from sight. As the opening track asserts, this is people music, human and humane, flawed only in the sense that we all are, never the same music twice. Walk these streets with Henriquez and his crew. It's a trip. —*Brian Morton*

The South Bronx Story: The South Bronx; Hydrants Love All; Boro Of Fire; Moses On The Cross; Mama Lorraine; Soy Humano; Black (Benji); Guajeo de Papi; Fort Apache; Hip Hop Conclave. (62:00)

Personnel: Michael Rodriguez, Terell Stafford, trumpet; Marshall Gilkes, trombone; Melissa Aidana, saxophones; Jeremy Bosch, flute, vocal; Robert Rodriguez, piano; Carlos Henriquez, bass; Obed Calvaire, drums; Anthony Almonte, congas.

Ordering info: fanlink.to/thesouthbronxstory