Written by bluesever Sunday, 12 September 2010 21:38 - Last Updated Monday, 03 November 2014 17:35

George Duke - A Brazilian Love Affair (1979)



1. Brazilian Love Affair 2. Summer Breezin' 3. Cravo E Canela 4. Alone-6AM 5. Brazilian Sugar 6. Sugar Loaf Mountain 7. Love Reborn 8. Up From the Sea It Arose and Ate Rio in One Swift Bite 9. I Need You Now 10. Ao Que Vai Nascer 11. Caxanga. Personnel: George Duke - Piano, organ & different instruments Roland Bautista - Guitar Larry Williams - Sax Alt & Tenor Jerry Hey - Trompet, Flishorn Toninho Horta — Guitar Acoustic & Electric Jamil Joanes - Bass Byron Miller - Bass Milton Nascimento - Guitar Acoustic, Vocal Bill Reichenbach Jr. - Trombone William Reichenbach - Trombone Raul de Souza - Trombone Roberto Silva — Drums & Percusion Airto Moreira - Percusion Chico Batera - Percusion Sheila E. - Percusiones Ricky Lawson - Drums Flora Purim - Vocal Lucia Turbull - Vocal Flavio Faria - Vocal Lucinha Lins - Vocal Lynn Davis - Vocal Josie James - Vocal.

By the time of A BRAZILIAN LOVE AFFAIR, keyboardist George Duke had largely left his jazz roots behind, opting to focus on producing R&B and pop albums, and while this 1979 outing nods to certain subtle elements of jazz, it essentially consists of funk and Brazilian pop. Recorded in both Los Angeles and Rio de Janeiro, the disc features a number of notable Brazilian artists, including singer/songwriter Milton Nascimento and percussionist (and famed Miles Davis sideman) Airto Moreira, and their presence informs the proceedings to varying degrees, the strongest impression being made on Nascimento's own "Cravo e Canela." In contrast, the opening title track is a slick R&B number replete with a prominent slap-bass line, while "Sugar Loaf Mountain" is a breezy keyboard workout gilded by exotic percussion. Those expecting an album's worth of either traditional Brazilian music or straight jazz may be disappointed; however, listeners willing go along with Duke on this eclectic, romanticized journey will find much to enjoy.

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