

## Toots Thielemans & Elis Regina – Aquarela Do Brasil (1969)

Written by bluesever

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1. Wave 2. Aquarela Do Brasil 3. Visao 4. Corrida De Jangada 5. Wilsamba 6. Voce 7. Barquinho 8. O Sonho 9. Canto De Ossanha 10. Honeysuckle Rose 11. Volta Personnel: Toots Thielemans (Guitar and Harmonica) Elis Regina (Vocals) Antonio Adolfo (Piano) Roberto Menescal (Guitar) Wilson das Neves (Percussion)

Recorded in 1969, during a "howling snowstorm" in Stockholm Sweden of all places, Elis and Toots conjured up a steaming mid-summer Brazilian beach in the studio. Elis is on fire! Her musical group 'Elis Cinco' is brilliant and audibly enthusiastic. Singing with a wide range of emotions and tossing off gymnastic phrases with ease, Elis is incredible. She wields her voice like a knife, cutting quickly and deeply. Toots is equally brilliant and the entire ensemble plays like old musical friends. I speak no Portuguese but this music is as clear as a crystal. The sultry "Barquinho" will slow your breathing and "Wave" is new again. She totally personalizes "Aquarela Do Brasil" and infuses it with humor and "crickets".

I bought this CD primarily because of Toots. I had recently bought the excellent "Chez Toots" and noticed this CD in his discography. I popped it in the CD player and wandered away. The next morning the CD player woke me up with "Wave" and I laid there amazed for the next hour. As a jazz fan, I KNOW singers and this singer was someone very, very special. She understood nuance, emotion, improvisation, the blues, how to deliver a knockout punch and leave us wanting more. It's no wonder they called her 'The Hurricane'. Now I'm collecting more Elis recordings and have just purchased the self-titled first CD cut by her talented daughter, "Maria Rita". As much as I will always love Gal Costa, with this CD, Elis (over twenty years after her tragic accidental death) has stolen my musical heart. She ranks in the company of Ella, Sarah, and Carmen. I wonder if she realized she was really a jazz singer. Believe me, this CD should be required listening for ALL music fans. Snowstorm? What snowstorm? LOL. --- RBSProds, amazon.com

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