

CRITICS SPEAK ON "BRAZIL CONFIDENTIAL"

"Jon Gold is a wonderfully soulful pianist...I was delighted to hear how his music has grown and evolved in a very insightful and delicate direction that speaks directly and powerfully to the listener. Using interesting instrumental combinations, a wide compositional palette and featuring an all-star cast of American & Brazilian musicians, "Brazilian Confidential" will reward repeated listenings".

Tim Jackson, Director, Monterey Jazz Festival

"...Intricate arrangements with a lively sense of rhythm, this recording of Jon Gold's music is attractive and full of a palpable joie de vivre. You will be entertained for sure."

Dave Liebman, saxophonist

Jon Gold's *Brazil Confidential* is unique. It is an album of music that shows just how much the pianist and composer has internalized the Brazilian experience and what that can do for authenticity when it comes to an American musician writing in a Brazilian style. It may be true that the experience is largely urban, but that should not take away from the achievement of this album. Perhaps the true breakthrough is in the unabashed spirituality that is fused into the urbane and the profane. Nowhere is this more beautifully executed than in "Teresinha," a wonderful rhythmic extravaganza written in a partido-alto form. Beautiful, shadowy figures emerge as the song tumbles out of its cocoon spun out of a berimbau. This melding together of a constant, fluttering mysticism and a rollicking, down-to-earth rambling shuffle pervades throughout the album. Gold has assembled a fine cast of musicians, the bedrock of who are percussionist Zé Mauricio, drummer [Mauricio Zottarelli](#), guitarist Scott Anderson, and bassist [Harvie S](#). The percussionist has a bewitching effect on the band with his effervescent style and is clearly the star of "Funky Jabour," a wonderful tribute to the great [Hermeto Pascoal](#). The song aims to mimic the musical awakening that takes place in the Pascoal studio, when The Sorcerer (as Pascoal is often called) gathers his musicians to rehearse each morning. But only here it is Zé Mauricio around whom this "rehearsal" pivots with delightful contrapuntal interplay and a lively and soaring exchange between Andrew Serman on flute, [Bryan Murray](#) on tenor saxophone, and [Anat Cohen](#) on soprano saxophone. This trio returns again on "Vitamin B" a striking and complex melody with a wickedly shifting and alternating beat within the samba structure, only this time the playing is in unison.

The maestro and pianist shows himself to be expert in various ethnic forms as well. "Confissão" is a masterful ballad with a deeply soulful vocal by Tatiana Parra, whose voice is singular, sensuous, and lithe as she renders this memorable song, causing the heart to bleed with sadness. "Singela" is a fine song that mimics the *choro* with a superb interplay between Katie Scheele on English horn and the piano of Gold shadowing her as she catches an undulating wave of sound. The tone textures that emerge are altogether wondrous. The guitarist on the date appears to be the composer's alter ego on "Vitamin B" and elsewhere too. Anderson has even picked up a Brazilian moniker in the affectionate "Scottinho" and shows why. His guitar playing is wistful and could very well be part of the fabric of Ipanema or even the barrio of Jabour, for instance. The exactitude of his playing as he catches the waves of sound on "Paraty" is quite simply marvelous. The song, "Rapadura," with its resplendent *maracatu* rhythm in its coda is another exquisite example of Gold's Brazilian experience and recall, albeit obliquely, another legend, [Luiz Gonzaga](#) on this landmark album from the truly talented Jon Gold.

All About Jazz <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=36015>

"The new release by Jon Gold "Brazil Confidential" it's the now connection between Bossa Nova and the New Brazilian music of the 21 Century. I play and the listeners love it. "

Jassvan DeLima - DJ Producer and Host of Som do Brasil (WKCR - NY)

"...superb music that displays the kind of energy and talent you seldom hear these days. I'm highly impressed, and that takes some doing these days... I give this wonderful CD a MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, with an "EQ" (energy quotient) rating of 4.96."

Dick Metcalf, aka Rotcod Zzaj <http://zzaj.freehostia.com/>

"...Gold's compositions are some of the best Brazilian-influenced music I have ever heard."

John Book <http://www.thisisbooksmusic.com/2010/03/>

Jon Gold, *Brazil Confidential* (Zoho): Music cuts across all elements of society.

Take Jon Gold, a professor of chemistry with a Ph.D. from **UC Santa Cruz**, who fell in love with Brazilian music while teaching at a Rio de Janeiro university for five years in the '90s. Specializing in researching the reaction of carbon after training lasers at diamonds, the keyboardist applies those alchemical skills to fusing a variety of genres here, starting with a love for the music of such Brazilian greats as **Sergio Mendes**, **Antonio Carlos Jobim** and **Hermeto Pascoal**. After releasing his previous album a decade ago, Gold finds the breezy element at the heart of that country's distinctive sound, and uses it to explore both new age and more jazz-oriented arrangements. He's collected a marvelous assortment of musicians to collaborate, with **Jorge Continentino's** flute and **Zach Brock's** violin spicing up the opening "Alem do Azul," named after Gold's lifelong fascination with **John Coltrane** and his reference to seeking "the stars beyond the stars," musically and spiritually. And you've got to give props to a guy who dedicates the song to the mother of his Brazilian wife. "Janacek Suite #4" is another thing entirely, a tribute to the classical music Gold grew up playing, a gently lilting offering that expresses the "remorse felt at having caused one's beloved to shed tears." "Confissao," a song written about the passing of his father, features a breathy, **Astrud Gilberto**-style turn by touted Sao Paulo singer **Tatiana Parra**, cooing **Luis Ribeiro's** affecting lyrics. "Rapadura" is named after the cheap sugarcane candy culled from the northeast of Brazil, a showpiece for Gold's sensuous piano lines underlined by Continentino's soprano solo. For fans of **Joachim "Jochen" Becker's** N.Y.-based indie Zoho label and its roster of stand out Brazilian musicians, Gold pays tribute to the elements that make it work, while finding ways to expand the genre's possibilit"

Roy Trakin, HITS Magazine

... this is very well-played, catchy, lively, 'glass is completely full' World music to make you smile."

Jazz Society Of Oregon <http://www.jsojazzscene.org/cdreviews.htm>

...a music that is at once tunefully melodic and harmonically complex...His piano style is expansive and orchestral, providing a deep harmonic base to the remainder of his band... composing complex music that is readily accessible and enjoyable. His embrace of Brazilian culture is potently evident in his music, making him a worthy addition to the ranks of Zoho Music."

All About Jazz <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=35887>

“Pianist/composer AND chemistry professor Jon Gold's love of Brazilian music led to him living and teaching in Rio where he met and befriended many in the Brazilian music community including Jobim and Pascoal. That the classically trained jazz pianist absorbed the sounds of the land well as is very apparent on his new CD - *Brazil Confidential*. ...Throughout the album, the compositions are colorful, deeply layered and impeccably structured with interesting changes and melodic verve. A delight for fans of Brazilian music (like me) many of the songs reference towns or regions of Brazil and will have your mind wandering to sandy beaches and blue sky over splashing waves.

“...among the very best I've heard all year”

<http://www.jazzchicago.net/reviews/2010/QuickHits5.html>

“It is a listen that gives pleasure and finesses your foot tapping accompaniment so that YOU are in on this music, too...“Brazil Confidential” is a welcome addition to the Brazilian Tinge and a testament to the continued importance of the musical hybrid.”

Greg Edwards, <http://www.gapplegate.com/musicalblog.html>

"...a breezy, delightful set of Brazil flavored jazz/funk lite that just feels like closing up the home office Friday afternoon and putting the smart phone on vibrate as you get the weekend kicked off properly. This is a cat that knows how to get it done and surround himself with jazzbos that play like they do it for the fun of it above all else. Clearly an adult instrumental winner that'll keep you coming back for more."

MIDWEST RECORD, CHRIS SPECTOR, Editor and Publisher