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THE VERVE MUSIC GROUP

Stan Getz, Bossas and Ballads: The Lost Sessions

Verve Records announces a major find, a previously unreleased session of vintage work by **Stan Getz**, one of the giants of jazz history. *Bossas and Ballads: The Lost Sessions* was recorded in March, 1989, and produced by Getz's close friend **Herb Alpert**. Backing the celebrated saxophonist is his longtime partner, pianist **Kenny Barron**—whom Getz called “the other half of my heart”—drummer **Victor Lewis** and bassist **George Mraz**.

Signed to A&M label in the late eighties, Getz went to record the orchestral *Apasionado*, also produced by Alpert. “These lost sessions,” says Alpert, “were somewhat overlooked in our eagerness to record the more ambitious *Apasionado*. When we rediscovered the tapes, we realized how good they were. It's straight-ahead Stan playing with a strength and sweetness that characterized this last period of his life.”

Critics consider this final period among Getz's most fertile. Ironically, he was recovering from a heart attack and suffering with liver cancer. It was also the period when he found sobriety. As he attained new clarity, as he wrestled with his immortality, he fused his life force—his fears and fortitude, his joyful gratitude for the gift of sound--into his saxophone. The results were thrilling.

You hear the results on *Bossas and Ballads: The Lost Sessions*.

“Herb was the ideal producer for Stan,” Barron feels. “Herb is relaxed and understood that the key to bringing out the best in Stan was relaxation.” “I do believe Getz's genius was in his ability to relax. Listen to how he plays into the rhythm section. He always put it in the right place. Stan had ‘it.’ ‘It’ meant going beyond riffs, telling complete stories with a beginning, middle and end. ‘It’ meant being brutally honest, putting his emotions on the line. Stan had the whole tool kit. Whatever songs we gave him, he reinvented and substantially improved. Four of the songs from the sessions are Kenny Barron originals. Stan had a natural affinity for Kenny's melody lines and sophisticated chord progressions.” “A while back,” Kenny recalls, “I'd brought Stan **Mal Waldron's** ‘Soul Eyes,’ a song **Coltrane** had played. I knew Stan would love it. Fact is, he loved it so it became a staple of our live sets.” “‘The Wind’ was something **Russ Freeman** wrote for ‘*Chet Baker with Strings*’ in the early Fifties,” says Alpert. “It seemed perfect for Stan, whose way with a ballad was chilling. You hear him play **Thad Jones's** ‘Yours and Mine’ and that's it; his version is instantly definitive.” “Stan also defined the spirit of bossa nova,” Barron explains. “Take ‘Feijoada,’ my tune referring to a Brazilian dish of sausages, black beans and rice. When Stan plays it, you taste it.”

“When these sessions were over Stan seemed happy,” Alpert remembers. “He was in a good place. He was making amends to everyone he had hurt. He swam in the ocean in mid winter. He drank herb tea and stuck to his natural diet. He'd come by just to shoot the breeze. His sweetness blossomed.”



Getz would go on to record other landmark sessions before his death in 1991—including the brilliant *People Time* duo with Kenny Barron. These lost sessions are welcome news and further testimony to his enduring imagination and artistic strength.

During his lifetime, Stan Getz won virtually every distinction available to a jazz musician. He is a member of Down Beat magazine's Hall of Fame. A multi-GRAMMY® winner, his "Girl from Ipanema," a #1 pop hit, won Record of the Year and his Getz/Gilberto was Album of the Year in 1964. His career began with **Jack Teagarden** in the early Forties. His work with **Woody Herman, Jimmy Raney, Jazz at the Philharmonic, J. J. Johnson, Eddie Sauter, Charlie Byrd, Astrud Gilberto, Gary Burton, Jimmy Rowles, Chick Corea and Albert Dailey** was remarkable not only for its variety but its consistency. Getz recorded dozens of classic albums, selling millions of copies throughout the world.

Bossas and Ballads: The Lost Sessions [31405230322-2]
will be released on CD on September 9, 2003.

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