

# Artist OF THE Month

The new jazz CD "Here. There..." by Mauricio de Souza and Bossa Brasil® is available at America's Cup in Asbury Park



Right - Mauricio de Souza

By triCityNews Editor Steven Froias

ASBURY PARK – Over coffee at America's Cup recently, owner Ross Blanco asked us to throw a blurb in the triCityNews for him. He wanted local musicians to drop their CDs off at the coffee house.

Seizing an opportunity, we proposed that Ross go a step further. Why not feature a different, local artist each month who was from or who played locally?

Ross bit. And so, a la Starbucks (but with better coffee, food and a friendlier vibe) we're happy to help America's Cup launch its first Artist of the Month.

That's because we chose the dude.

He's Mauricio de Souza, who recently released his first CD, "Here. There..." containing tunes from both his Bossa Brasil® and Mauricio de Souza Groups.

Mauricio is a fixture on the triCity jazz circuit, though he lives in West Orange, N.J. and also plays a lot in New York City. Moonstruck and Chico's House of Jazz in

Asbury Park, Giamano's in Bradley Beach and the Wine Loft in Long Branch are just a few of the places he's performed.

We profiled him back in February of this year, and learned the following: The Mauricio de Souza Quartet concentrates on jazz standards and refined modern jazz. It tackles challenging arrangements, with the songs performed in 3/4, 5/4 and 7/4 time as well as modal tunes.

Bossa Brasil® focuses on Brazilian music, naturally, in looser 2/4 time. It plays compositions from that country's masters – Tom Jobim, Egberto Gismonti, Roberto Menescal, et al. The trio also explores the exotic rhythms of Baião, a northeast Brazilian rhythmic formula that became the basis of a wide range of music, and Chorinho, which originated in 19th century Rio and features a fast and happy rhythm, utilizing virtuosity and improvisation.

"Here. There..." has been well received critically and

commercially. The radio station WBG0 Jazz 88.3 FM in New York it added to their playlist, and it made it onto the Billboard jazz charts. The CD, on the Pulsa Music label, combines Mauricio de Souza Group and Bossa Brasil® in eleven tracks of pulsating, lyrical, sophisticated, and unique arrangements of jazz and Brazilian jazz standards. The title track is an original composition by de Souza. (See [www.mauriciodesouzajazz.com](http://www.mauriciodesouzajazz.com) for booking info.)

We dig it big time – and we're sure you will, too. Pick up a copy at America's Cup (633 Cookman Avenue, downtown Asbury) during the month of October.

As for November's Artist of the Month at America's Cup, Ross tells us that he's accepting CDs now and will select one shortly. He welcomes any local musician with a professionally produced disc to drop it off at the coffee house for consideration.

We'll be sure to let you know who he chooses – and add to our CD collection at the same time!

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Saturday October 23, 2010

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Inaugural Cocktail Gala

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