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Quick Hits

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Myron Walden - Countryfied

The Dave Liebman Big Band - As Always

Glawdys N' Dee - Lyannaj

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Michael William Gilbert - I Can See From Here

Jan Garbarek The Hilliard Ensemble - Officium

Novum

**Bossa Brasil and Mauricio de Souza Group - Here,
There**

Chie Imaizumi - A Time of New Beginnings

Sam Fazio - The Songs We Love

Hadley Caliman Pete Christlieb - Reunion

The Glenious Inner Planet

*In which the beleaguered reviewer attempts to
make some headway into the mounds of CDs*

perfect composer for this group - and this excellent piece was composed specifically for the Hilliard Ensemble in 2003. Combining the free-floating saxophone of Garbarek with the voices of the Ensemble was a brilliant conception and it is a pleasure to hear the group continuing to explore new directions on this spiritually-charged release.

www.ecmrecords.com

Bossa Brasil and Mauricio de Souza Group -- "Here, There"

(Pulsa Music)

Brasilia-born drummer Mauricio de Souza is mainstay on the NYC jazz scene as a busy sideman playing both jazz and Brazilian music while also leading two bands of his own. On his new album de



Souza cleverly splits the album between both bands, while also playing both genres. The first six songs are Brazilian covers by artists such as Tom Jobim, Hermeto Pascoali, Baden Powell and Milton Nascimento, performed by de Souza's *Bossa Brasil* group. Meanwhile, the second half are mostly jazz standards by Joe Henderson, Vernon Duke, Chick Corea and Cedar Walton, with one original (the title track) by the drummer bridging the halves. Making matters a bit easier is the fact that the same players play in both configurations, in settings ranging from trio to sextet, with only de Souza and the amazing Morrie Louden on bass appearing on every track. The sprightly "Bebe" starts things off with an interesting quartet of piano (Carl Viggiani) and vibes (Jerry Weir) joining de Souza and Louden. Meanwhile, the waltzing "Chovendo na Roseira" offers up the first of several excellent bass solos by the underrated Louden. The always amazing Mike Stern guests on "Vera Cruz" adding some fusion guitar, while in yet another twist Andrew Beals and Gregory Rivkin add alto sax and trumpet respectively to the vibes-driven "Imagem" (another great Louden solo here as well). Meanwhile Baden Powell's "Consolacao" is a highlight with energetic trio

interplay between de Souza, Loudon and Viggiani and a colorful solo from de Souza. The second half's movement into more standard jazz fare (albeit with interesting arrangements that include further rhythmic adventures) begins with the vibes-drenched title track, before Stern returns to launch into some incendiary riffs on a memorable version of Henderson's "Inner Urge" (another killer Loudon solo! I can't say enough about the talented bassist). "I Can't Get Started" is a sultry showcase for Rivkin's trumpet and Beals' alto over the piano/vibes combo that started things off, while Corea's "Windows" drops the vibes. The album ends with version of Cedar Walton's "Firm Roots" on which Rivkin sits out. An engaging and enjoyable demonstration of de Souza's ability to exist both here and there in both the Brazilian and straight-ahead jazz worlds.

www.mauriciosouzajazz.com/



Chie Imaizumi -- "A Time of New Beginnings"

(Capri Records LTD)

Japanese-American composer Chie Imaizumi believes in taking a positive approach to her writing and it shows clearly on her

sophomore effort *A Time of New Beginnings*.

Imaizumi - a former award-winning organist in her native Japan, switched her focus primarily to composition while attending Berklee. Releasing the acclaimed *Unfailing Kindness* in 2007, she also was named a "Rising Star Composer" by Downbeat that year. The lineup on this big band recording - including trumpeter Randy Brecker, bassist John Clayton, reed man Steve Wilson, bari sax player Gary Smulyan, trombonist Steve Davis and trumpeter Terrell Stafford speaks volumes as to the reputation she has built. The album opens with the bright and cheerful "My Heartfelt Gratitude" which features bouyant piano by Tamir Handelman and pleasing soprano sax by Wilson. Brecker only appears on "Information Overload," but he makes the most of the opportunity --