

## Mixing rhythms is the hallmark of saxophonist Michael Tracy's show

Saxophonist Michael Tracy brings a mix of jazz and Brazilian music to a show at Casa Thomas Jefferson



Saxophonist Michael Tracy fell in love with Brazilian music when he first heard Garota de Ipanema played by Stan Getz. Tom Jobim's classic hit the North American musician's soul and brought him closer to Brazil forever. Tracy has been to Brazilian lands more than 15 times for shows, educational projects, workshops and lectures. Now, he's back for the Brasília Connections show, a free performance at CTJ Hall, at Casa Thomas Jefferson, and to start the Brazilian Music Workshop program.

For today's show, Tracy prepared a repertoire that includes João Bosco, Tom Jobim, Moacyr Santos, Hamilton Pinheiro and João Donato, as well as compositions by musicians who play with the saxophonist. "I wanted to play a selection that people would recognize, but also introduce works by composers from Brasília", explains the musician. "The repertoire is pleasant and interesting"

For Tracy, mixing jazz and Brazilian music is something natural. "The harmonies are very similar and Brazilian melodies are very expressive and musical. Improvisation is a key element in both music, jazz and Brazilian. The main difference is in the approach to rhythm", says the saxophonist, who also ventures into choro, frevo, baião, afoxé and party-alto. "I like the mix of rhythms", he warns.

During the Brazilian Music Workshop, Tracy wants to bring foreign instrumentalists closer to Brazilian music and culture. "The idea is to offer knowledge about Brazilian music without overloading participants with theories, chords and scales. The focus will be on musical involvement and on experimenting, learning and playing the rhythmic variety of styles of Brazilian music", he explains. "I want to introduce participants to the beautiful melodies and harmonies of the vast field of composers and music, many unknown in the United States. And I also want to provide a Brazilian experience.