



### InReview ... Michael Tracy's "Hora Certa"

From Russia to Japan to Brazil and many locations in between, educator Michael Tracy has earned laurels as one of our foremost "Ambassadors of Jazz" – and he plays a pretty mean saxophone too.

"I love being in Brazil, being around my Brazilian friends in their homeland and in the States," says Tracy on the liner notes of his most recent CD, "Hora Certa." "... 'My Brazilian Journey' started in 1998, my first of many trips ... It is my hope that this recording shares that journey, that love of the music, the life of this country and its people."



Saxophonist and professor Michael Tracy.

Indeed "Hora Certa" (or "Right Time") flows through the speakers as a song of enjoyment, with the tunes, all originals by the musicians on the CD, recorded in March and May 2015.

The title tune "Hora Certa," sizzles with Tracy's tenor saxophone riffs ripping and rolling over the hot guitar of Eudes Carvalho, the rippling piano of Flavio Silva, Hamilton Pinheiro's bluesy and grooving bass lines and Pedro Almeida's colorful melodies and whipping riffs of his own on drums.

"Bem Brazil" highlights Silva's ringing touch on piano and Tracy's bluesy, wailing tenor flights. "Waltz for Julia" showcases Carvalho's sweet strumming on guitar and "Com Pressa," maybe the highlight for its twists in rhythms and spiraling intensity, is an insistent jam, featuring Tracy and Silva exchanging hot licks. "Para Casa" is a highlight because of Tracy's searing tenor in its melancholy contemplative mode, squeezing every ounce of feeling from a phrase. "Volta ao Mundo" shows off Tracy's soaring soprano sax melody-making – and Silva's on piano. But virtually every tune on "Hora Certa" is its own highlight.

Tracy earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Louisville and is a professor and director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at the University of Louisville School of Music, says his website. He has played with performers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Buddy Rich, J. J. Johnson, Curtis Fuller, Johnny Mathis, Marvin Hamlisch, the Four Tops and the Temptations. Not your normal highbrow.

See <http://www.michaeltracy.com> or <http://www.cdbaby.com> for more information.

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