FACULTY ARTIST SERIES PRESENTS

THE MUSIC OF ANTONIO CARLOS JOBIM (1927-1994)

Samba Jazz Syndicate

Phil DeGreg, piano
Kim Pensyl, bass
Rusty Burge, vibraphone
Aaron Jacobs, bass*
John Taylor, drums^

Monday, February 13, 2012
Robert J. Werner Recital Hall
8:00 p.m.

*CCM Student
^Guest Artist

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UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
Antonio Carlos Jobim was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to cultured parents. His father was a diplomat, and his mother founded a primary school. He began formal music studies in his teens, eventually foregoing the idea of becoming an architect. His early influences were the big bands of the '40s, West Coast jazz of the '50s, composers such as Debussy, Stravinsky, Chopin, Villa-Lobos (introduced to him by his German piano teacher), and, of course, the Brazilian samba.

Jobim played piano in nightclubs and made his first recording in 1954, backing a vocalist as “Tom” and His Band. With poet Vinicius de Moraes and vocalist/guitarist Joao Gilberto, Jobim created a new musical style which became known as the bossa nova. It borrowed from the samba, jazz rhythms, and European harmonies. He scored de Moraes’ play Orfeu do Carnaval in 1956 which became the film Black Orpheus in 1959, scored by Jobim and Luis Bonfa. It won both the Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film and the Cannes Film Festival Palme d’Or for its director Marcel Camus. Most importantly, its music fueled the bossa nova fad.

In the meantime Gilberto had recorded Jobim’s songs to popular acclaim in 1958, and Jobim’s “Desafinado” from Jazz Samba by Stan Getz and Charlie Byrd became a hit in America in 1962. Jobim was among several Brazilians to perform that year at Carnegie Hall. The following year Astrud Gilberto, Joao’s wife, scored a mega hit with Jobim’s “The Girl from Ipanema.”

Jobim’s gentle guitar, romantic rhythms, and warm vocal style epitomized the sensuality of his music. He recorded with orchestrators Claus Ogerman and Nelson Riddle, vocalist Frank Sinatra, and several jazz musicians. Many of his songs became well-established in the jazz repertoire and were given English lyrics by various writers: “Corcovado” (“Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars”), “Wave,” “Chega de Saudade” (“No More Blues”), “One Note Samba”, “Amor Em Paz” (“Once I Loved”), “How Insensitive,” “Triste,” “Waters of March,” “Dindi,” and “A Felicidade.”

When interest in the bossa nova waned at the end of the ’60s, Jobim turned to scoring Brazilian films. A resurgence of interest in the music brought him back to the international scene in the mid-’80s when he toured with his own group that included his wife, son, and daughter. Just before his death in 1994, he recorded collaboration with pop star Sting.