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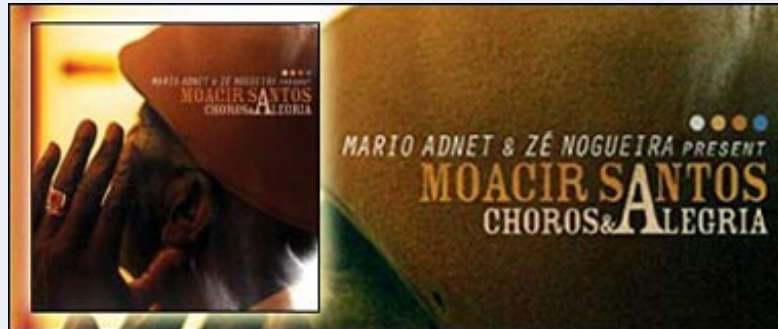
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Mario Adnet & Zé Nogueira
Present: Moacir Santos
Choros & Alegria

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Posted on February 3, 2006

Moacir Santos: Choros y Alegrias
Adventure Music (AM1021 2 -2005)
by Tomas Peña



In 2002, music critic Ben Ratcliff, listed "Coisas" (2002) in the New York Times Essential Library's 100 Most Important Recordings. At the time, he posed the question, "Why is this man not famous?" Ratcliff was alluding to the fact that so little was known about Santos' vast body of work, despite the fact that he is regarded by many critics and researchers as one of the most important and innovative artists in the history of Brazilian music. Thanks to the efforts of Adventure Music, the music of Moacir Santos is currently experiencing a resurgence.

Moacir Santos was born in 1926 in the back country of Pernambuco, Brazil. At the age of two he was mimicking the local bands, and by his teens he mastered a variety of wind instruments to such a degree that he traveled with ensembles as a professional musician. During the 1950s, Santos settled in Rio De Janeiro, where he worked on National Radio for nineteen years and taught music to such artists such as Sergio Mendes and many others. In the 70s, Santos garnered international acclaim for the

soundtrack to the film, "Amor No Pacifico". The movie premier prompted his visit to the US and his decision to stay. After relocating, he quickly found work as a ghost writer in the Hollywood film industry. During this time he recorded three albums for Blue Note Records - "Maestro" (1972), which was nominated for a Grammy, followed by "Saudade" and "Carnival" (all are currently out of print). Over the years Santos continued to compose while teaching piano, organ and on occasion, slide trombone.

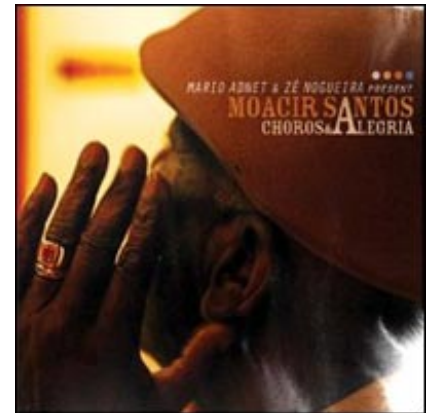
"Choros y Alegria" is the follow-up to last year's highly acclaimed, "Ouro Negro" (2004), a two-disc set, that features an all-star cast and revisits many of Santos' original compositions. The recording was highly touted, by critics and fans alike. Furthermore, it appeared on quite a few critics list for, "Best Recordings" of 2004. "Choros Y Alegria" features fifteen never before performed compositions by Santos. It is one of many upcoming projects that is in the works to honor Santos' upcoming 80th birthday.

In Portuguese, the word, "Choros" means, "weeping" or "crying," although Choros is also an instrumental musical form that is characterized (in part) by improvisation, virtuosity, and usually, one or more soloists. In Santos' case, he takes the concept of Choro one step further by applying the formula in a big band setting. Put another way, Santos treats a big band the way a painter uses a brush, painting broad or delicate strokes, as the mood strikes. More importantly, at its core, Santos' music speaks to the heart and soul of Afro Brazil.

Santos' music defies description. Put simply, his music consists of big band sounds, unpredictable arrangements, native Brazilian rhythms and American jazz. For new listeners I highly recommend "Choros y Alegria" and "Ouro Negro" as a solid introduction to Santos' music. According to my sources, Santos lives a relatively quiet existence in Pasadena, California. Nonetheless, music is never far from his thoughts.

Tomas Peña
Co-Editor
Latin Jazz Network

For additional information on
MOACIR SANTOS please visit:
www.adventure-music.com



Tracks: (click on titles to listen)

Disc 1: Unreleased Works 1989 - 1996

1. **Agora Eu Sei (Now I Know)**
2. **Outra Coisa (Another Thing)**
3. **Paraiso (Paradise)**
4. **Vanidoso (Vain)**
5. **Flores (Flowers)**
6. **Saudade de Jacques (Longing for Jacques)**
7. **Cleonix**
8. **Ricaom**

Disc 2: Hoy - 2005

9. **De Bahia Ao Ceará (From Bahia to Ceará)**
10. **Excerto No. 1 (Excerpt No. 1)**
11. **Lemurianos (The Lemurians)**

12. **Rota (Route)**
13. **Samba Diamante (Lovers Samba)**
14. **Carrocel (Merry-Go-Round)**
15. **Felipe**



Credits:

Produced by Mario Adnet and Zé Nogueira

With: Andrea Ernest Dias; Antonio Enrique Bocão; Armando Marçal; Cristóvão Bastos; Elias Ferreira; Jessé Sadoc; Jorge Helder; Jota Moraes; Jurim Moreira; Marcello Gonçalves; Marcelo Martins; Marcos Nimrichter; Mario Adnet; Muiza Adnet; Nailor Proveta; Philip Doyle; Ricardo Silveira; Ronaldo Do Bandolim; Teco Cardoso; Vander Nascimento; Vittor Santos; Wynton Marsalis; Zé Nogueira; Zé Paulo Becker.

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