



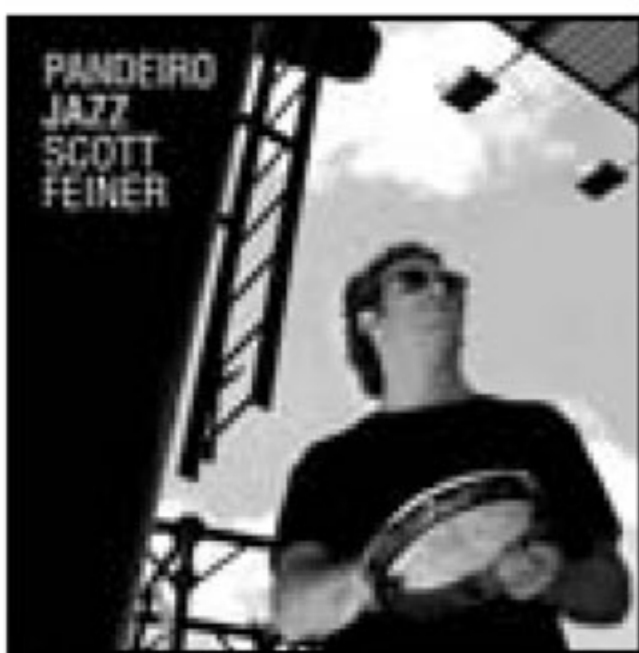
all about jazz

NEW YORK

June 2006 | No. 50

Your FREE Monthly Guide to the New York Jazz Scene

newyork.allaboutjazz.com



Pandeiro Jazz
Scott Feiner (Delira Music)
by Ernest Barteldes

Just when you thought that there was very little someone could introduce to the world of jazz, here comes this Bronx-born musician with a pandeiro in his hand (the Brazilian cousin of the tambourine) to prove otherwise.

There is nothing really new about the pandeiro - you can hear it in virtually every samba recording ever made and Sergio Mendes often uses it in his live sets when performing tunes such as "Mas Que Nada". But this is the first time this writer has heard it used as a replacement of the drums in a jazz quartet - especially when it comes to compositions by Coltrane, Wayne Shorter and Horace Silver.

Feiner, who now lives in Brazil, catches your attention immediately with Stevie Wonder's "Big Brother" on the CD's opening track - you can immediately tell that this is not a "Brazilianization" (is there such word?) of jazz. Instead, it is a successful attempt to open horizons to an instrument that has long been relegated to a single genre.

A clear example of that is Feiner's own "The Sheriff". The presence of Freddie Bryant's acoustic guitar gives the tune a certain bossa nova flavor, but the song goes well beyond that, with rich improvisations by Joel Frahm on alto sax and Bryant's masterful fills. Coltrane's "Giant Steps" is, however, taken to the streets of Rio as Feiner and Bryant give it a samba cadence while Frahm uses its open spaces as an opportunity for improvisation. The original "Botafogo Blues" is a funky tune in which the guitarist switches to electric and the fact that Feiner can extract that kind of beat from his instrument is nothing short of amazing.

The chemistry between Feiner, Frahm and Bryant is evident on a live setting, as seen at a recent appearance at Smoke.

They opened with "Giant Steps" and went on to Bryant's original composition "Denisio". This was an opportunity for the guitarist to record a couple of loops and improvise around them. Bassist Doug Weiss joined during the third number, Horace Silver's "Song For My Father". One of the night's highlights was "That Old Devil Moon", which was performed as a duo between Feiner and Frahm. The pandeirista explained that this came about during a promotional stop in the South, when the other musicians were unavailable and they decided to play the number on the spot. Amused by the results, they decided to include it on their regular setlists.

Pandeiro Jazz is an innovation which deserves a wider audience. However, feel for the person who has to place this CD on the shelf at a store. Is this Brazilian jazz? Not really, even if the album was put out by Delira, a Brazilian label dedicated to instrumental music. To be honest, one can't fit this into a single genre. Call it jazz fusion if you will, but this is something way beyond that.

For more information, visit www.deliramusica.com