

A brief history of Bossa Nova

***Translation of Bossa Nova = New Trend***

*(Taken from "The marriage of American Jazz and Brazilian Bossa Nova"  
Masters thesis by Ami Molinelli and Andre Scarabelot; California Institute  
of the Arts (CalArts, 2002)*

- 1850-1910** Birth of Choro: Brazil's first national music and the mother of the samba. Likened as Brazil's "ragtime"
- 1917** First "possible" recording of a Samba "Pelo Telefone"
- 1939** Carmen Miranda brings "Samba" to the USA
- 1956** "Orfeo Negro" or Black Orfeus opens as a play (musical composer is Vinicius de Morães)
- 1956** "Bim Bom" composed by Joao Gilberto and is considered the first bossa nova composition for style and simplicity\*
- 1958** Elizete Cardoso released album *Canção do Amor Demais*; with compositions by Jobim/Morães; track of *Chega de Saudade* considered first bossa nova recording
- 1958/59** *Chega de Saudade/No More Blues* released by João Gilberto (written by Jobim/Morães) and gains popularity. Bim Bom was released on this album
- Mid-late 1950's** MusiDisc (Brazilian Record label) is issuing Pacific Jazz Records: "West Coast Jazz" \*\*
- 1959** Film adaptation of play "Black Orfeu" wins 1<sup>st</sup> prize at Cannes Film Festival (soundtrack by Luis Bonfá and Antônio Carlos Jobim and includes compositions by Morães)
- 1962** "Jazz Samba" released in April on Verve by Stan Getz and Charlie Byrd\*\*\*

- 1962** Carnegie Hall Bossa Nova concert: Miltoninho Banana, Luiz Bonfá, Ico Castro-Neves, Oscar Castro-Neves, Carmen Costa, Chico Feitosa, Stan Getz, João Gilberto, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Ana Lucia, Carlos Lyra, Gary McFarland, Sérgio Mendes, Roberto Menescal, José Paulo, Roberto Ponte, Sérgio Ricardo, Normando Santos, Agostinho dos Santos Lalo Schifrin, Bola Sete, Percy Wilcox, and Caetano Zama, etc. \*\*\*\*
- 1963** Stan Getz receives Grammy for playing on track “Desafinado “
- 1963** Stan Getz and Joao Gilberto release “Getz/Gilberto”
- 1965** “ O Fino de Bossa” TV show hosted by Elis Regina secures Bossa nova music as most popular music in Brazil.
- 1966** “Os Afro-Sambas de Baden e Vinicius” released making partido alto popular; re-launches Baden Powell’s career.

*\*Bossa Nova: widely considered to tone down more percussive qualities of samba and enhance the melody/vocalist with cool-jazz harmonic sophistication. While Bossa Nova borrowed jazz harmonies, choro had some similar chord structure and components and thus there is debate about how much jazz influence Bossa Nova had.*

*\*\*Chet Baker is commonly considered a main jazz influence to bossa nova musicians (vocal style is likened to having influenced bossa nova singing style- “cool” understated) Other musicians: Gerry Mulligan, Bud Shank, Shorty Rogers, etc.)*

*\*\*\*Considered first major bossa-nova album in the US jazz circuit. Charlie Byrd on a trip to Brazil was taken by Bossa Nova and suggested doing this record to Stan Getz.*

*\*\*\*\*First concert in the US for Sergio Mendes*

*\*\*\*\*This concert gave birth to the Getz/Gilberto band*

*\*\*\*\*B/c of huge press helps propel bossa nova in Brazil to further popularity*