

# Steen Rasmussen Quinteto Featuring Paulo Braga

## — Presença

Stunt Records



Stunt Records CD  
STUCD 15092



Pianist Steen Rasmussen is one of Denmark's foremost interpreter's of Brazilian music. Very few Danes have acquired his easy, flowing Brazilian swing. He orchestrates his playing like a natural Brazilian. He formed his band in 2007, all six of their CD's have been received enthusiastically, and they are an extremely popular concert attraction. Their understanding of Brazilian music is rare among European musicians. In 2013 Steen Rasmussen released LO MEJOR DE CADA CASA with Brazilian vocalist, guitarist and songwriter Leo Minax. The music was a result of a close collaboration combining Brazilian saudade and Scandinavian melancholia. Riding on the fantastic reception, the band toured the world, reaching audiences as far away as Ecuador, Columbia, Brazil and Spain, and returning to Denmark for a Danish Music Award nomination. A music critic described an appearance at the Copenhagen Jazz Festival in these words: "Pianist Steen Rasmussen with his regular line-up augmented by Brazilian vocalist, composer and guitarist Leo Minax, played classic, translucent Brazilian pop. Rasmussen's band never tears off. They hold back and lean confidently on the underlying pulse that flows as an ingrown sense in each musician." His new album PRESENÇA continues the Steen Rasmussen Quinteto concept. The mixture of Brazilian saudade and Scandinavian melancholia is still predominant. The end product is sophisticated and jazzy

Brazilian/European/South American music with a Scandinavian twist. Naturally, an important part of the equation is the drummer: none other than Paulo Braga – the man who more than anyone has defined Brazilian drumming from the '70s to our day. For years Steen Rasmussen dreamed of recording with "the father of Brazilian drums", whose subdued yet super-funky drumming has always put him in a class all his own. Paulo Braga was the regular drummer for Tom Jobim and Elis Regina, Brazilian music's two all-time greatest stars. Enough said. A grant from the Danish Art Council helped the dream come true, and in 2014 Steen Rasmussen Quinteto with bassist Fredrik Damsgaard, trombonist Lis Wessberg, percussionist Jakob Andersen and guitarist and vocalist Leo Minax flew to Rio de Janeiro to record with Paulo Braga. The legendary Brazilian vocalist Joyce adds an extra dimension to one tune, as does Swedish vocalist Josefine Cronholm. There are fine contributions by Christina von Bülow on flute, Jonas Krag on various stringed instruments and Brazilian Afonso Correa on berimbau and percussion.

The eleven songs are composed by Steen Rasmussen and Leo Minax, the lyrics written by Leo Minax, Celso Adolfo, Chico Amaral, Bispo Filho Marcelo Sarkis, and not least by Ronaldo Bastos, whom Brazil aficionados will recognize from the legendary music collective Clube Da Esquina.

*Steen Rasmussen (p, keys), Leo Minax (g, voc), Lis Wessberg (tro), Fredrik Damsgaard (b), Paulinho Braga (dr), Jakob Andersen (perc) + Christina von Bülow (fl), Jonas Krag (g), Afonso Correa (perc), Joyce (Moreno) and Josefine Cronholm (voc)*

*Parangolé / Melankolia / Haje Coracao / Evergreen / Na Lapa / Pas De Deux / Presença / Pracer / Circular 102 / Boa Noite.*

*STUCD 15092 Steen Rasmussen Quinteto Featuring Paulo Braga, Presença, Stunt Records, Sundance Music ApS*



STUNT RECORDS

Sundance Music ApS Gothersgade 107 1123 Copenhagen K Denmark  
T: +45 3333 8720 www.sundance.dk sundance@sundance.dk

## Steen Rasmussen Biographies

is one of Denmark's best pianists and composers in Brazilian and affiliated styles. He has also worked with numerous international and Danish artists, and is part of the regular line-up in a number of very popular Danish acts: Danseorkestret, Lis Sørensen, Marie Carmen Koppel and Søs Fenger. After several years with Brazilian vocalist Silvana Malta's group – with whom he recorded with Toninho Horta and Airto Moreira – he formed his own band in 2007. His debut as bandleader PRIMEIRO AMOR, released in 2007, was a great success and received brilliant reviews, including maximum stars from the Nestor of Danish jazz criticism, Boris Rabinowitsch, under the following headline: "Outstanding Brazilian release with Danish pianist". In 2009 Rasmussen initiated his collaboration with Swedish vocalist Josefine Cronholm, which resulted in the album STEEN RASMUSSEN FEAT. JOSEFINE CRONHOLM – AMANHÃ I MORRÓN TOMORROW. The album was received enthusiastically. In 2010 the Spanish producer Alfredo Lorenzo brought Steen Rasmussen to Sao Paulo to record with Brazilian vocalists Marcia Lopes and Fabaio Cadore. The album was released in 2011 as STEEN RASMUSSEN QUARTETO EM SÃO PAULO and was nominated among the six best albums of 2011 and released in Japan, where Disc Union called it "...the birth of a masterpiece". On a Spanish tour Rasmussen met Brazilian singer, guitarist and songwriter Leo Minax and invited him on a successful tour of Denmark. Once again maximum stars and exuberant headlines: "Brilliant flashy Bossa". A musical fellowship grew and materialized in STEEN RASMUSSEN QUINTETO FEATURING LEO MINAX – LO MEJOR DE CADA CASA. Once again accolades and five stars: "...a perfect match creates a duende – a special and authentic emotional expression". A track from the album topped P8 Jazz radio play list for two months and resulted in yet a nomination for Best Jazz Release. In 2014 Rasmussen released VILD MED DANS – LATIN NIGHTS for Sony Music in collaboration with percussionist Jacob Andersen. The album featured Danish hits from the '60s till now in rumba and samba arrangements.

Leo Minax hails from the Brazilian highlands and is rooted musically in the scene rotating around the legendary musical collective "Club da Esquina" that emerged in the '70s and '80s in Belo Horizonte, the capital of the Minas Gerais area. During this period Milton Nascimento, Lo Borges, Toninho Horta, Ronald Bastos, Wagner Tiso and others created groundbreaking music that became extremely popular in Brazil and reverberated throughout the world. Leo was in the backing band for Lo Borges sister, Solange Borges. Later he played with Toninho Horta and Lo Borges. His own music has been influenced by a long Spanish residence. In Spain – as in Brazil and Japan - is a renowned songwriter, singer and guitarist. He has released seven albums in his own name. Paulo Antonio Braga – aka Paulinho Braga – is considered an innovator of Brazilian drumming and one of the country's finest drummers ever. Although his fame mainly stems from his extensive work with Tom Jobim, he has played with numerous Brazilian artists. In the '60s he was a member of Berimbau Trio with Milton Nascimento (then on bass) and pianist Wagner Tiso in nightclubs around Belo Horizonte. In the '70s he was part of vocalist Elis Regina's backing band. His studio work from that time includes Tim Maia, Milton Nascimento, Beth Carvalho, Raul Seixas, Rita Lee, Carlos Lyra, Emilio Santiago, MPB-4, Simone, Sueli Costa, Nara Leão, Taiguara, Chico Buarque, Gal Costa, Djavan, Fagner, Jards Macalé, Gilberto Gil, and Gonzaguinha. He played on the famous 1974 recording ELIS & TOM with Tom Jobim and Elis Regina. Paulo Braga moved to the States for several years performing with Joe Henderson, Pat Metheny, David Sandborn, Michael Brecker, Gil Goldstein, Airto Moreira, Flora Purim and Elaine Elias. In 2003 he released his first solo album with original material, GROOVELAND. Throughout his career Paulo Braga has worked with countless acts including Edu Lobo, Ivan Lins, Nana Bethania, Paulinho da Viola, Zizi Mu, Moraes Moreira, Ednardo Amelinha, Ney Matogrosso, Francis Hime, Olivia Hime, Geraldo Azevedo, João Bosco, Johnny Alf, Leila Pinheiro, Rosa Passo, Miucha, Marcos Valle, Cattano Veloso, Roberto Carlos, John Pizzarelli and many others.



STUNT RECORDS