

**PRESS RELEASE**

# Steen Rasmussen

## Red Bossa

- Released on LP, CD and in digital distribution

Legendary Brazilian singing star Joyce Moreno is beyond amazed by Danish pianist and composer Steen Rasmussen's musical fluency and close relationship to Brazilian music: "He knows it inside and out and plays it with respect and a deep understanding of all aspects of the art form."

After hearing Rasmussen's Red Bossa Trio, she emphasizes that he is an artist who follows his heart, "which should come as no surprise to anyone who has ever heard him play - or had the pleasure of playing alongside him, which is the case for me. The magic of the trio's music is a powerful statement and reminder to all who hear it that beauty exists in a wild world. It should be no surprise that one of Steen's tracks is called Hymn to Life, and another is called Happy Sadness - the very emotion that helps define Brazilian music as a whole, and Bossanova, in particular."

Steen's Red Bossa Trio consists of Kaspar Vadsholt, with his tastefully insightful bass playing, and one of Brazil's most respected drummers, Celso De Almeida, who expertly and elegantly spices up the music just as it should be with an authentic ability to underplay things while being funky at the same time.



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Rasmussen has a close relationship with both musicians, having previously collaborated on the marvelous MILTON PÅ SVENSKA album released in 2023, where Steen and Swedish vocalist Josefine Cronholm interpret Milton Nascimento. Enjoy and take note of Rasmussen's trio, who never let things get out of control. Instead, listeners (along with the band) can lean back comfortably against the underlying pulse that gets under everyone's skin in the most wonderful way.

Throughout his musical career, Steen Rasmussen (b. 1968) has focused on integrating modern Brazilian music into his own compositions. His familiarity with the genre is unrivaled, and like few others, he can convey the characteristic and engaging 'Brazilian feeling.' The tasteful and alluring recordings with the Red Bossa Trio are no exception. All 11 tracks on the album were written by Rasmussen, with one exception, featuring Brazilian vocalist Marilda Almeida on a heartfelt version of Manhã de Carnaval by Luiz Bonfá.



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RED BOSSA was recorded in Copenhagen and cements Steen Rasmussen's crucial role as Denmark's leading interpreter of Brazilian music. Since his first introductions to Bossa, Samba, and the other sub-genres from the great South American country and culture, he's dared to dive headfirst into things - fully committed and without a safety net.

Rasmussen has listened to and studied the best of the best, expanding his voice as a pianist and composer along the way. Artists like Joao Donato, Tania Maria, Djavan, Joyce, Elis Regina, and Toquinho all influenced him. Over the years, he cultivated and honed his fascination, mastering the fluid and harmonically superior Brazilian swing with

compositions that are never pastiche. Instead, he plays and writes as if he were a local legend in the center of Rio de Janeiro.

Befriending Brazilian people is generally, and famously, easy. In fact, it's about as challenging as loving Brazilian music. Both are almost automatically guaranteed. And so, while it's generally not too tough to make friends with people from Brazil or become enamored with their music, on RED BOSSA, pianist Steen Rasmussen reminds us that he's one-of-a-kind as he breaks down borders and adds a personal Nordic coolness to the musical language he loves, allowing it to speak to multiple continents of listeners and cultures simultaneously.

*TON TO TON / HYMN TO LIFE / RED BOSSA / HOME / BAIÃOZINHO / BOSSA PARA JOYCE / MANHÃ DE CARNIVAL / HAPPY SADNESS / NO MAIS, GERAES / SILENCE / EU SEI QUE VOCÊ SABE.*

Steen Rasmussen: Piano, Kaspar Vadsholt: Bass, Celso De Almeida: Drums and percussion. Guest: Marilda Almeida, Clara Emilie Wessberg Rasmussen, Lis Wessberg, Jonas Krag.

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