

Correio Braziliense (*Brasília, Brazil Nov. 4, 2006*)

“Native Talent”

Instrumental: Musicians from Brasília end a tour of 40 presentations in 33 cities in the United States and Canada and assure a new tour in September of 2007

By Irlam Rocha Lima

In the past months many Brazilian rhythms were presented to North Americans by two young musicians from Brasília: bandolim player Dudu Maia, and vocalist/percussionist George Lacerda. From August 21st until last week they completed 40 presentations in 33 cities in the U.S. and Canada in the company of the accordionist Rob Curto, bassist Solomon Dorsey and percussionist Todd Isler.

“These shows formed part of a tour coordinated by José Curbelo, a cultural producer from Minneapolis. He found out about our work through Rob Curto, a North American accordionist with a jazz background, who intimately knows Brazilian music.”, Dudu Maia told us by telephone from New York, “Rob went to Brazil many times, visited many regions, learned various rhythms and fell in love with *choro*, *baião*, *frevo*, and *maracatu*. In Brasília, he stayed for a period and played with people at the *Clube de Choro* and other places”, he added.

The last time he was in the city, in February, the accordionist recorded an album in the Blues Records studio containing classics of Brazilian popular music composed by Tom Jobim and Jacob do Bandolim among others. Dudu Maia did the arrangements on this musical production. “The album, *Piano de Fole*, comes out at the end of the year”, the bandolim player said.

“Rob opened doors for us here. Among the shows that we did some were very important, among which were world music festivals in Chicago and venues in Cleveland, Toronto, and Montréal. We played in theatres, churches, universities, and public plazas. The most exciting show was when we presented in Saint Paul for 3,200 children”, Dudu tells us, “George and I also lead workshops about Brazilian culture and rhythms, and about stringed and percussive instruments.”.

Last weekend, in New York, the two completed their last presentation. It was a show in Barbés, a jazz club in Brooklyn that featured the participation of São Paulo guitarist Douglas Lora, winner of a contest conducted by Carnegie Hall. At the show Dudu released his first solo album. “The 100 capacity club was full and I sold a lot of CD’s. I will stay here for another month, and another tour in September of 2007 produced by José Curbelo is already confirmed. For us it is very important to present to the exterior music made in Brasília and be recognized by the public, like what occurred in the U.S. and Canada.”.