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**SambaDa, *Salve a Bahia*** (SambaDa): From Santa Cruz, CA, but very much rooted in Bahia, this Brazilian/American septet has built an enthusiastic following via many live shows and here is a fine studio set produced by veteran guitarist Greg Landau (of *Ritmo y Candela* renown). Afro-Brazilian sounds packed with percussive energy sparked and fronted by singer Dandha Da Hora of seminal Bahian group Ile Aiye.

**Forro in the Dark, *Bonfires of Sao João*** (Nublu): *Forro* is the hyperkinetic dance music of the Brazilian north country, but this group cranks it up a bit further with electric guitars and bass and even David Byrne and other international figures on some cuts, adding reggae and other flavors in a successful modernized hybrid.

DVD: **Tom Jobim, *Live in Montreal*** (DRG): A video of this legend's 1986 show. A greatest-hits agenda played by an all-star band and swaying female backup singers. This is the smooth stuff and for fans who never saw him live, here's your chance.

**Brasileirinho: *The Sound of Rio*** (Milan): A soundtrack to the film of the same name, with a very nice listen to artists of local renown in the marvelous city. For me, the highlights are the couple of solo guitar pieces by Yamandu Costa, who plays the seven-string guitar like nobody this



side of the legendary Bola Sete. Dazzling and beautiful, and the other music is not bad either.

BOOK: ***Footprints: The Life and Music of Wayne Shorter*** (Tarcher/Penguin): This fine bio by Michelle Mercer is here not because this jazz legend fueled bands with both Miles Davis and Weather Report, not to mention his superb solo career, but since he brought Milton Nascimento to international view after observing that he'd never heard a more stunning voice. Their joint *Native Dancer* lp from 1976 remains a world-music landmark; this is a compelling and inspiring life story.

### Latin/Caribbean

**Bebo Valdes, *Sabor de Cuba*** (Malanga): Or, "The Very Best of ..." , at least of the classic material this pianist recorded with his Sabor de Cuba septet from 1957-60, also known as the golden era/last gasp of pre-Castro Cuba. It's the utterly charming son montuno, mambo, rumba, descarga, etc. songs that made him a Havana star.

**Chucho Valdes, *The Complete 1964 Sessions/Jazz Bata*** (Malanga): Two vintage reissues from this Cuban keyboard master. The first collects two 1964 lps "introducing Paquito D'Rivera" on sax and feature small combos working through mostly short descargas but also some other forms, even Brazilian. The latter features subsequent lps from 1972 and 1982, again with small combos (not only a "trio" as the title indicates), with the first song "Irakere," later to become a revered Cuban jazz progressive unit under Valdes' leadership. Lots of Valdes' virtuosic and florid pianistics in solo and group settings, everyone at the top of their musical game.

**Arturo Sandoval, *Rumba Palace*** (Telarc): Here, a "little big band" tackles a stack of trumpeter Sandoval's compositions, expertly arranged and played for those who enjoy lush, complex, driving Latin jazz.

***The Rough Guide to Salsa Dura NYC*** (World Music Network): Eddie Palmieri kicks this collection off and he is the best-known name here, but the other 10 artists are no slouches at churning the clave and horns and energy of this unabashedly dance-oriented classic sound. A party mix on one disc.

***Cult Cargo: Grand Bahama Goombay*** (Numero): How to categorize this gem of a collection? The source is the Bahamas but the overarching sound is '60s/'70s American soul and funk, slightly tropicalized. Spanning 1969-76, these 16 tunes by 10 homegrown groups sport the kind of Otis Redding-sparked "Funky Fever" (one title here) that is immediately recognizable to those who recall that era. And with covers of songs such as "Theme From Shaft" and "Mustang Sally" (13 minutes of jamming on that one!) you can hear not only what was on the radio but how these island artists made the sound their own. Great fun, and some of the lp covers reproduced here are just . . . well, groovy.

### Rock/OUT

**Mavis Staples, *We'll Never Turn Back*** (Anti): Ry "Midas" Cooder produces and leads the band behind the great soul/gospel singer Mavis Staples. The theme is civil rights, with many of the songs well-known from the movement of a half century ago, with some older gospel songs and some originals fitting right in. Cooder's guitars power the songs and Ladysmith Black Mambazo provides the backing vocals. The recipe results in a beautiful, moving, funky, gospel/soul sound and an instant classic, unreservedly recommended to, well, anyone and everyone.

DVD: **Gil Scott-Heron, *The Paris Concert*** (Inakustik): Speaking of civil rights, here's a pioneer of what might be called conscious funk poetry, or what morphed into hip-hop. This 2001 performance shows him a bit worse for wear, but still able to put on two hours of hits such as "The Bottle," "Johannesburg" and more, with a good band. His live appearances being rare 'round these parts, I was glad to see this.

***20 Ways to Float Through Walls*** (Crammed Discs): This comp is billed as being by the "Crammed All Stars," meaning artists from this fine, progressive label. A very fine way to sample ear-stretchers such as Konono #1, Taraf de Haïdouks, Tartit and many others, some with exclusive tracks/mixes. Tuxedomoon (!) is even included, if you know what that means: psychedelic, in a good way. Floating, indeed.

**Adrian Sherwood, *Becoming A Cliché*** (Real World): I think I slept on this one, a second "solo" offering from one of my touchstone producers/mixers, and if so, will only say here: Get this one. In the two-cd with dub version version, if possible. Mr. On-U is still ahead of any curve you might know of with respect to presenting challenging, rootsy, yet futuristic reggae-based electroworld music.

**Cornelius, *Sensuous*** (Everloving): Mysterious and much-loved Japanese electro-style composer will likely add to his growing fanatic following with this latest installment of his singular take on pop, balanced somewhere between a band and a laptop. Tinkly, grooving, sweet, soothing, a bit of

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