

DEXTER PAYNE QUARTET

DEXTER PAYNE with 40 years of professional experience including the NBC Today Show and Prairie Home Companion, effortlessly and reliably evokes musical pleasure, always informative and entertaining. He was recognized in '04 and '06 in the Downbeat Readers Poll among the top 10 clarinetists.

Bill Kopper is an amazing guitarist, first call for jazz, studio and arranging work as well as classical. Bill lived in Madrid playing with world-class Brazilian musicians and has two CDs released under his own name. His high standard and love for Brazilian music are central to the quartet.

Dave Willey

well known in music circles for his improvisational genius, he is the leader/composer for Hamster Theatre and bassist for Thinking Plague - bands unknown here at home that are actually in demand for touring in Europe. Dave currently holds a regular engagement Sundays at Dazzle.

Raoul Rossiter is an exceptional percussionist and drummer, with extensive knowledge and fluency in the Brazilian percussive language. Raoul opens the music from the bottom, invoking the earth's energy.

Always tasteful, often breathtaking, the quartet is an event by itself. The sound ranges from that of a classical quartet to a samba-funk dance groove, to a forro dance party, adaptable to concert, small celebration or school presentation. It is classical, improvised jazz combined with the vibrant romantic harmony and pulse of Brazil.

Choro, uniquely Brazilian, is the revered older brother to samba and bossa nova. Baiao and Xote are folkloric dance music from the Northeast of Brazil. The combination is infectious, and people cannot sit still when the Quartet hits their dance groove.

Denver Post / Sunday, February 13, 2005 Payne brings choro to Dazzle

Denver native Dexter Payne, a proficient and emotive performer on clarinet and alto saxophone, embarked upon a world music odyssey in 1995 that continues today, even though he's staying closer to home. "Through a series of accidents I discovered that I had been preparing all my life for a trip to Latin America," says Payne, who appears Thursday at Dazzle... After 2 1/2 years of travel and cultural/musical absorption, including a friendship with the late Buena Vista Social Club pianist Ruben Gonzalez, Payne arrived at an appreciation for the Brazilian equivalent to American traditional jazz, known as choro.

... [He] makes the challenging appear effortless on "Inspiration" (Dexofon Records), a trio date with Brazilian guitarist Antonio Mello and percussionist G. Thiago De Mello. Payne's breathy clarinet tone is a soothing complement to his bandmates' thoughtful interplay. Relaxing and intellectual at the same time, "Inspiration" might remind American ears of the classic Stan Getz/Charlie Byrd collaboration, "Jazz Samba."

Payne recently found his name among such clarinet stars as Don Byron and Buddy DeFranco in Downbeat magazine's annual reader's poll. "It's important ... to pay attention to what turns me on, and this music really captured me." **(Bret Saunders)**

Missoula Independent / June 3, 2004

Antonio Mello, Dexter Payne, & Thiago de Mello: Inspiration (Dexofon Records)

... bossa nova with winning subtlety, fitting together like pieces of an intricate, intimate puzzle ... finally, a virtuoso musician who really hears the Brazilian whispers, and not just the carnival clamor. **(Andy Smetanka)**

Puerto Vallarta Tribune / Apr, 2004

I was most impressed with his clarinet work. Without a doubt, he's the best I've heard live on that instrument ... fluid and gentle, infused with dynamic rhythm. I did not get enough... **(Tom Colvin)**

BIG SKY JOURNAL / spring 1999

"If he shows up in your town, go see this master alto sax player. It's a cool, mellow sound, sometimes airily reminiscent of Desmond, or Shank, but it has more humanity, more earth, more fire. If you add the sweat he's invested in his musical woodshedding, you've got an elemental genius. He's more of a humorist on baritone, which is fine, and his clarinet work has been tremendously augmented by the music he learned in Brazil, particularly.

This is a very accomplished musician... and well worth driving a hundred miles or more to hear." **(Jon Jackson)**

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