

DEXTER PAYNE QUARTET Debut *SOLD OUT*: Dazzle Supper Club Feb 17, 2005

Choro is a unique Brazilian sound from the first half of the 20th century, somewhat parallel to our ragtime and traditional New Orleans jazz. Still popular in Brazil, choro paved the way for samba and bossa nova. Choro is classical, jazz and the vibrancy of Latin romantic song, all at once. Seldom heard in this country, it is a special love of these four accomplished musicians. They share their collective improvisation and interpretation of some of the great Brazilian composers. The music is acoustic -- perfectly suited to concert, small celebration or school presentation.

DEXTER PAYNE offers a unique blend of genuine American and exotic Latin and Brazilian sound on clarinet and alto sax, crafted by years of study and travel. He was recognized nationally this year in the 69th Annual Downbeat Readers Poll as a top clarinetist: #8 in the company of players like Don Byron, Paquito de Rivera, Alvin Batiste. With many years of professional experience including appearances on the NBC Today Show, Dexter effortlessly and reliably provides musical pleasure, informative and entertaining.

In this quartet that blend comes to life, along with the ambience, culture and history of Brazil. **Dexter Payne** (clarinet) is joined by **Bill Kopper** (guitar), **Eduardo "Bijoux" Barbosa** (bass), and **Raoul Rossiter** (percussion), all in the top of their field with impressive credits under their own names.

The joyful music of the quartet, breathtakingly virtuosic but always tasteful, is an event by itself. It can also be the perfect lighthearted accompaniment to any gathering or celebration.

Sunday, February 13, 2005
Payne brings choro to Dazzle
By Bret Saunders

Denver native Dexter Payne, a proficient and emotive performer on clarinet and alto saxophone, embarked upon a world music odyssey in 1994 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. "I started in Mexico and worked my way south." 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.

... Payne 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."

"For me, a melody sort of grabs your heart ..." says Payne, who 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 for me to pay attention to what turns me on, and this music really captured me."

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<http://missoulanews.com/Archives/News.asp?no=4097>

Antonio Mello, Dexter Payne, & Thiago de Mello
Inspiration (Ethos Brasil)

... 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)

BIG SKY JOURNAL
spring 1999 -Jon Jackson

*"I am glad that Dexter Payne took a couple of years to ramble around ... But I'm deeply pleased that he's home... 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.
This is a very accomplished musician... and well worth driving a hundred miles or more to hear."*

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