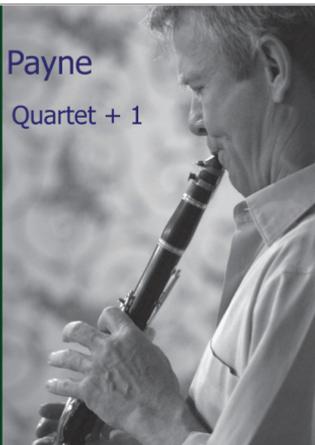


Dexter Payne

Quartet + 1

Pra Vocé



Dexter Payne Quartet + 1 *Pra Vocé*

DEXOFON 1401



Dexter Payne has played several instruments (including alto, baritone and harmonica) and in many styles (bop, blues, folk-rock and world music) in his wide-ranging career. But he is most individual as a clarinetist, and it seems that the music closest to his heart comes from Brazil. A two-year period (1995-'97) traveling throughout South America climaxed with a meeting in Brazil with the late percussionist Gaudencio Thiago de Mello, who became his informal mentor. Payne dedicates the music on this disc to de Mello.

While the clarinet was not closely associated with Brazilian music in its earlier days (did any major bossa nova record from the 1960s feature the clarinet?), Payne, Paquito D'Rivera and a few others have since shown that the instrument fits easily into the melodic music of Brazil.

Pra Vocé (which translates to “for you” in Portuguese) is a delight from start to finish. The sound of Payne’s group, with clarinet, accordion, piano, guitar and drums-percussion (but no bass), is light and unique. They perform nine selections that are filled with rich melodies that are often quite joyful, particularly “Alma Brasileira” and “Doce De Coco.” While most of these songs (including the Payne/de Mello collaboration “No Wolf At The Door”) will be new to American jazz listeners, many are well known in Brazil.

Payne’s clarinet is generally the lead voice, and he is heard at both his most creative and most melodic. Although there are many fine short solos from guitarist Bill Kopper, pianist Victor Mestas Pérez and accordionist Dave Willey that always keep the melodies in mind, with drummer Raoul Rossiter adding colorful support, it is the sound of the very attractive ensembles along with the wonderful repertoire that are most memorable. —*Scott Yanow*

Pra Vocé: Alma Brasileira; Chorinho Pra Voce; No Wolf At The Door; Sampa; Doce De Coco; Playground; Assanhado; Conversa De Botequim; Lembrei Do Ceará. (57:40)

Personnel: Dexter Payne, clarinet; Dave Willey, accordion; Bill Kopper, guitar; Victor Mestas Pérez, piano; Raoul Rossiter, drums, pandeiro.

Ordering info: dexofon.com