24. Meirelles e Os Copa 5: Tania

(J. T. Meirelles) Copyright Control From O Som; orig. LP: Philips 632184 Rec. 1964; prod. by A. Pittigliani; @ 1964 Philips

Meirelles, tenor sax; Luiz Carlos Vinhas, piano; Manuel Gusmão, bass; Dom Um Romão, drums; Pedro Paulo, trumpet; arr. by Meirelles

A cult item in the bossa discography, this album stands out to this day as a very contemporary effort. The A&R man at Philips went crazy with an album comprising only six long, original tunes. Meirelles says that his dream was to record for Blue Note, so he acted like it was a reality! "Tania" is his favorite track on the album, full of cool and bop influences. Later on, Meirelles, a great arranger/composer/horn player, worked as A&R for the Odeon label, producing several pop stars. He was also the arranger on Ben's early albums, including the original version of "Mas, Que Nada."

25. Luiz Bonfá and Ithamara Koorax: Samba de Orfeu

(L. Bonfá / A. Maria / A. Salvet) Meridian Editions Sarl - Euterpe Edicoes Ltda. / Edition Marbot GmbH (Hamburg)
From Almost in Love / Ithamara Koorax Sings the Luiz Bonfá Songbook; orig. CD: Paddle Wheel 503
Rec. February 1995; prod. by Arnaldo DeSouteiro; (**) 1995 Paddle Wheel
Mit freundlicher Genehmigung von Orpheus Productions

Luiz Bonfá, lead guitar; Ithamara Koorax, vocal; Paulo Malaguti, keyboards; Ron Carter, bass; Shigeharu Sasago, rhythm guitar; Sidinho Moreira and Arnaldo DeSouteiro, percussion; Sadao Watanabe, alto sax; arr. by Paulo Malaguti

Winner of both the Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival as well as the Academy Award for best foreign film in 1959, Black Orpheus had a fantastic soundtrack composed (separately) by Bonfá and Jobim. It is safe to say that, prior to the film release, the world at large had never heard bossa nova. "Samba de Orfeu," a very simple tune, appeared only in the last minutes of the movie, but became very famous and today is recognized as a jazz standard. This is not the original recording, but a most recent one, which the author had the honor of producing for an album that celebrated the 55th anniversary of Bonfá's career.

26. Caetano Veloso: Você Esteve Com Meu Bem?

(J. Gilberto / A. C. Martins) Copyright Control From Fina Estampa Ao Vivo; orig. CD: Verve 528 918-2 Rec. September 1995; prod. by J. Morelenbaum; ® 1995 Verve

Caetano Veloso, vocal & guitar; Jota Moraes, piano; Zeca Assumpção, bass; Marcelo Costa, drums; Mingo Araújo, percussion; Luiz Brasil, guitar; arr. by Jaques Morelenbaum

Rediscovered by Veloso in 1995, this was Gilberto's first recorded composition, in 1953, by songstress Mariza (then João's girlfriend). Martins, Gilberto's partner in the song, whose nickname was Russo do Pandeiro, and who had worked with Carmen Miranda, did not write a note of the song, but he got his credit thanks to his efforts in convincing the A&R at RCA to let Mariza (later on known as Marisa Gata Mansa after she married pianist Cesar Mariano) record this song. Arranged by Gaya, with Gilberto on guitar, the original recording is a simple sambacanção, with Veloso being the one responsible for giving it a bossa feel.