

"He's got what it takes for this music, that is, rhythm, good tone and a brilliant technique to go with it. You don't really have to be Latin American to play like one, when you understand and feel the music the way Jarkko does."

Jorge Morel,1987

"After listening to him you'll undoubtedly agree with Jorge Morel's liner notes that you don't have to be a native of a culture to feel and understand it's music.

...on the whole this is a fine album with a great deal of exceptional playing."

Guitar Player 3/1988/Jim Ferguson (Sambolero)

"Jarkko is the last thing I would expect to find around here (Finland): a Brazilian music expert. He knows more songs and more about my native music than many musicians I have worked with in my own country. When this album gets to Brazil my fellow countrymen will find it very, very difficult to believe that such swinging sambas, bossa novas and chorinhos were actually played mostly by Finns."

Ion Muniz,1989

"...Guitarist Jarkko Toivonen,23, has achieved concert musical level in Brazilian music.

...He was skillful and mature very early in his technique and nowadays he gives glints of successful virtuosity."

The main newspaper in Finland, Helsingin Sanomat (Concert 7/10/1992)

"This expert on Latin American guitar music showed already on his previous albums unquestionable technical talent. On this album the development can be heard as deepening of musical view and as flexibility of technical virtuosity for free and easy performance and for nuance putting the finishing touches to elegance. Confidence in own skills lets Toivonen more courageously and more colourfully throw into an interpreter of Bonfa, Jobim and Pernambuco.

The own compositions of the guitarist stylize appropriately to the wholeness."

The main newspaper in Finland, Helsingin Sanomat (29/1/1994)(Tuning to Mellow Tone)

"When I listened to the Finnish guitarist Jarkko Toivonen for the first time I was impressed about his authentic Brazilian touch and excellent guitar technique. But what surprised me the most was that a musician from Finland who has never visited Brazil could recreate that feeling, rhythm, and life philosophy we call samba and chorinho."

Toninho Horta,1996

"...in this topsy turvy world in which we live, it somehow makes perfect sense to go looking for this highly celebrated practitioner of Latin American guitar music in his native Finland.....

The diversity of material has a great deal to do with the appeal of this CD.....

Here, There and Everywhere comes as a warm surprise from a most unexpected source."

20th Century Guitar Magazine,1996/Jim Fisch (Here, There and Everywhere)

"...Leon Russell's "This Masquerade" is a tune that some people may remember as a song played by the group The Carpenters. In this tune Jarkko Toivonen showed his versatility and freedom from ultra-puritanism (to some extent he is yet puritan concerning the Brazilian tradition).In "This Masquerade" one could hear both Wes Montgomery-octaves and Shaft-Soul groove.

...Right after the trio had played Paulinho Nogueira's "Bachianinha no.1", a piece that could be explained "Bach goes astray in Rio" one could find out that the audience got what it wanted. Many "Bravo-shouts" could be heard.

...In my opinion Jarkko Toivonen is the most remarkable practitioner of the Brazilian guitar music in our country.

...If the music of Jarkko Toivonen will do for the Brasileiros, it should also do here in Finland."

The leading Swedish-Finnish newspaper in Finland, Hufvudstadsbladet (Concert 15/11/1997)

"This compilation album celebrates the Finn's tenth anniversary as a recording artist and features samplings from his preceding five discs. What has made these previous outings so enjoyable, and indeed what permeates the generous 23 cuts is an eclectic attitude which reconciles the earthiness of "Hi-Heel Sneakers" with the Gabor Szabo meets Ravi Shankar via John Fahey exoticism of "La Guitarra de Lares"....

Of particular interest is the guitarist's appreciation of composer Luiz Bonfa's compositions.....

Fans of the tasteful, romantic, nylon string, Brazilian guitar will want to pick up on this one."

20th Century Guitar Magazine,1998/Jim Fisch (Growth)