



MARIO BIONDI

BRASIL




"Brazilian sound and culture have been constant companions in my musical growth, full of passion and positive influences. That's the contamination inspiring Brasil"

Mario Biondi

With release scheduled for 9 March in Italy and 23 March in other countries, Brasil is Mario Biondi's new album project, dedicated to Brazil and Brazilian culture, a source of endless fascination for him. Produced in Rio de Janeiro by Latin Grammy winner Mario Caldato (Beastie Boys, Jack Johnson, Seu Jorge, Marisa Monte) and Kassin (Red Hot + Rio, Caetano Veloso), with Biondi's input for several tracks, Brasil explores the many faces of Brazilian music. With both brand-new songs and new versions of great classics, Mario gives his own interpretation, with his soul and funk roots never far away, and switching smoothly from Portuguese to English, French and Italian.

The 13 tracks on this musical journey include Rivederti, Mario's entry for the Sanremo Festival (a version with Ana Carolina and Daniel Jobim is a bonus track), and two other unreleased tracks that Biondi co-penned with Brazilian authors Rogê and Gabriel Moura, and with his faithful associates, Jeff Cascaro and Robin Goldsby (Take Me to the Stars and On the Moon).



Biondi's Italian adaptation of Iuan Lins's stunning *Deixa eu dizer* features the great Brazilian artist and singer Claudya, then there are new versions of *Felicidade* by contemporary Brazilian singer-songwriter Seu Jorge, but also of great classics such as Djavan's *Flor de lis*, rendered as *Upside Down*, then *It's You I will Always Love*, the English version of *Eu sei que vou te amar* by Tom Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes, plus Henri Salvador's *Jardin d'Hiver*, Sade's *Smooth Operator* feat. Till Brönner, and to closes, Tom Jobim's *Luiza*.

After his first time as a contestant in the Sanremo Festival, Mario Biondi has another major debut lined up for 2018 and precisely with *Brasil*, which he will perform live in sports arenas for two unique events, produced and organized by the FeP Group. Tickets are available on TicketOne.it and from the usual points of sale for May 17 at Rome's PalaLottomatica and May 20 at Milan's Assiagio Mediolanum Forum. RTL 102.5 is the radio partner for these two unmissable concerts. On 5 July, the appointment is at O2's Indigo in London, for the first of the UK dates, organized by International Music. Mario Biondi will be back in the UK in October, on the 24th in Manchester (Band on the Wall), on the 26th and 27th in Newcastle (Hoochie Coochie), on the 28th in Glasgow (Oran Mor), and on the 29th in Edinburgh (The Voodoo Rooms). The artist Biondi will be touring overseas for the entire summer season.

"BRASIL TRACK BY TRACK"

1. "FELICIDADE"

(Leandro Fab / Seu Jorge / Gabriel Moura / Pretinho Da Serrinha / Jeff Cascaro / Robin Meloy Goldsby)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass, Moog, Programing: Kassin
Keyboards: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Davi Moraes
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Percussion: André Siqueira
Sound fxs: Kassin, Mario Caldato
Backing Vocals: Jurema de Candia, Jussara Lorenço, Bettina Graziani
Horn arrangements: Marlon Sette
Trombone: Marlon Sette
Trumpet: Altair Martins
Sax: Zé Carlos Bigorna


Brasil opens with *Felicidade*, in an English version of the original by the contemporary Brazilian singer-songwriter Seu Jorge, produced at the time by Mario Caldato. An explosion of sheer energy and positive vibes that get straight to the point, rolling out the concept behind a project that wants to pay homage to the marvellous complexity of Brazilian music that Mario Biondi stamps with his own passion and respect. The English lyrics were co-penned by Jeff Cascaro and Robin Goldsby.

Who knew! At the age of 19, Seu Joge became homeless and lived on the streets for three years, during which time his musical talent exploded and made him famous in every Rio de Janeiro favela. In his acting career he also played Pelé's father in the biopic Pelé: Birth of a Legend.

2. "DEVOTION"

(Rogê / Gabriel Moura / Gabriela Da Silva Riley)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass, Keyboards and Programing: Kassin
Keyboards: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Percussion: Andre Siqueira
Sound fxs: Kassin, Mario Caldato
Backing Vocals: Jurema de Candia, Jussara Lorenço, Bettina Graziani
String arrangements: Arthur Verocai



Devotion is the second single taken from Brasil. A riveting anthem to the kind of love that paints rainbows and fills lives with endless give and take between lovers. This is one of the new songs on the album, composed by two of Brazil's top new singer-songwriters, Rogê and Gabriel Moura (with whom Biondi co-pens other tracks on the album) and Gabriela Da Silva Riley.

3. "UPSIDE DOWN (Flor de lis)"

(Djavan Caetano Viana / Regina Werneck)

Drums: Daniel Conceição

Bass: Kassin

Keyboards: Roberto Pollo

Guitar: Pedro Sá

Percussion: André Siqueira

Backing Vocals: Jurema de Candia, Jussara Lorenço, Bettina Graziani

Horn arrangements: Marlon Sette

Trombone: Marlon Sette

Flute: Dirceu Leite

The Mario Biondi version of Flor de lis, the first single ever released by the great Brazilian singer-songwriter Djavan, back in 1976. Casting the Biondi spell, he takes inspiration from a version recorded by one of his favourite performers, Carmen McRae. The track is in English with a Portuguese finale in tribute to the original, and a touch of swing in the introduction.

4. "RIVEDERTI"

(Mario Biondi / Giuseppe Furnari / Dario Fisicaro)

Arrangement by: Giuseppe Furnari

Piano: Giuseppe Furnari

Drums: Alessandro Lugli

Guitar: Pedro Sá

Contrabbass: Kassin

Recorded at: Studio Q, Milano and at Marini, Rio de Janeiro

Recording Engineer: Antonio Nappo, Mauro Araujo, Kassin and Mario Caldato

The song Mario Biondi chose for his first time as a contestant at Sanremo Festival, thrilling the Teatro Ariston with this sophisticated, intense, moving ballad that underscores the stylistic ties linking 1960s' Italian singer-songwriters and the creators of the Brazilian bossa nova: Antonio Carlos "Tom" Jobim, Vinicius de Moraes, João Gilberto. The lyrics also hint a tribute to Luiza, one of Tom Jobim's masterpieces. Brazilian maestro Arthur Verocai wows with his strings.

Who knew! Bruno Lauzi's 1971 O Frigideiro, co-penned with Giorgio Calabrese and Gian Piero Reverbi is a striking example of the Genoese school's stylistic and even linguistic affinities with the Brazilian artists of the same period. In this samba the Genoese dialect can be mistaken for Portuguese in several verses.



5. "TAKE ME TO THE STARS"

(Mario Biondi / Rogê / Gabriel Moura)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass: Kassin
Keyboards: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Davi Moraes
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Percussion: André Siqueira
Backing Vocals: Jurema de Candia,
Jussara Lorenço, Bettina Graziani
String arrangements: Arthur Verocai

A new song composed by Rogê and Gabriel Mora, showcasing all the musical influences that come together in Brasil, blending funk and samba with vibrant English hints from Mario and Portuguese highlights from the backing vocals.

6. "SOPHIA"

(Rogê / Gabriel Moura / Jeff Cascaro / Robin Meloy Goldsby)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass, Synthesizer: Kassin
Keyboards: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Davi Moraes
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Percussion: André Siqueira
Backing Vocals: Jurema de Candia, Jussara Lorenço, Bettina Graziani
Horn arrangements: Marlon Sette
Trombone: Marlon Sette
Trumpet: Altair Martins
Sax: Zé Carlos Bigorna

A new song composed by Rogê and Gabriel Mora, with English lyrics by Cascaro and Goldstein, a love story unfolds out in the shadow of Rio de Janeiro's iconic Sugarloaf Mountain.

7. "IT'S YOU I WILL ALWAYS LOVE (Eu sei que vou te amar)"

(Vinicius de Moraes / Antônio Carlos Jobim / Gloria Estefan)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass: Kassin
Keyboards: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Backing Vocals: Jurema de Candia, Jussara Lorenço, Bettina Graziani

An English version of *Eu sei que vou te amar*, penned by bossa nova legends Tom Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes, in an arrangement unlike any of the other numerous versions the song has attracted. Keeping faith with the intense, refined passion underlying the piece, Biondi penned English lyrics and turned it into an electrifying new soul ballad. With Caetano Veloso's guitarist and producer Pedro Sá on guitar.

Who knew! Since it was first released in 1959, *Eu sei que vou te amar* has been performed by João Gilberto, Caetano Veloso, Bebo e Cigala, Vinicius de Moraes, Adriana Calcanhotto, Ivan Lins, Rosa Passos, Elis Regina, Walter Wanderly, Gal Costa, Soledad Giménez, Gloria Estefan, Iuete Sangalo, and Maria Martha Serra Limas. In 1976 Ornella Vanoni released an Italian version going by the title *Io so che ti amerò*, with lyrics by Sergio Bardotti.



8. "DEIXA EU DIZER" feat. Iuan Lins e Claudya

(Ronaldo Monteiro de Souza / Iuan Lins)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass: Kassin
Keyboards: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Guitar: Davi Moraes
Percussion: André Siqueira
Keyboards: Iuan Lins
Backing Vocals: Ana Flora and Iuete De Souza

A classic by Brazilian singer-composer Iuan Lins, performed by Brazilian singer Claudya on her 1973 debut album. In this version, with part-Italian, part-Portuguese lyrics, Mario fuses the two and duets with both.

Who knew! In 2008 Brazilian rapper Marcelo D2 used excerpts from the song in his Latin Grammy-winner single Desabafo/Deixa Eu Dizer.

9. "ON THE MOON"

(Mario Biondi / Rogé / Gabriel Moura / Jeff Cascaro / Robin Meloy Goldsby)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass: Kassin
Keyboards: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Davi Moraes
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Percussion: André Siqueira and Mario Caldato
Vocoder and talk box: Kassin
Backing Vocals: Jurema de Candia, Jussara Lorenço, Bettina Graziani
Horn arrangements: Marlon Sette
Trombone: Marlon Sette
Trumpet: Altair Martins
Sax: Zé Carlos B

A new track penned by Mario Biondi, definitely the most up-tempo on the album, with a funk-soul vibe, with a nod at Banda Black Rio and Tim Maia, MPB (Música Popular Brasileira) soul pioneer.

10. "JARDIN D'HIVER"

Benjamin Biolay / Keren Ann)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass, Mellotron, Vibraphone, percussion: Kassin
Keyboards and Accordion: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Percussion: Mario Caldato

Biondi spotlights the Brazilian soul of the original with this French version of Benjamin Biolay and Keren Ann's song, made famous by the eclectic French artist Henri Salvador.

Who knew! Salvador was key to spreading Brazil's culture beyond national borders, especially bossa nova. In 2005 he was awarded the Brazilian Ordem do Mérito Cultural (Order of Cultural Merit) by the-then Minister of Culture, Gilberto Gil, in the presence of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.



11. "SMOOTH OPERATOR" feat. Till Brönner

(Sade Adu / Antonio Hardy / Clyde Otis / Murray Stein)

Drums: Daniel Conceição
Bass, Sitar, Keyboards: Kassin
Keyboards: Roberto Pollo
Guitar: Pedro Sá
Percussion: André Siqueira
Flugelhorn: Till Brönner

A bossa nova arrangement of the extended version of Sade's famous song, with highlights from Till Brönner's flugelhorn.

12. "LUIZA"

(Antônio Carlos Jobim)

Keyboards, Efx, ambiences: Roberto Pollo
Efx, Ambience: Kassin

Live recording with Mario Biondi and his pianist at the Wurlitzer for this version of Tom Jobim's Luiza, faithful to the original's superlative melody, extremely complex vocals and harmonies. Mario gives it his own inimitable feel. The perfect end to a long journey that starts in Parma, passes through Paris, and gets as far as Rio de Janeiro.

BONUS TRACK: RIVEDERTI (Se Quer Entrar) feat. Ana Carolina and Daniel Jobim

(Mario Biondi / Giuseppe Furnari / Dario Fisicaro / Ana Carolina / Dudu Falcão)