

CONTEMPORARY BRAZILIAN COMPOSER EMBRACES TRADITION



COMPOSER AND SAXOPHONIST
MICHEL NIRENBERG

"When Nirenberg took our stage, our audience was ready for a musical treat, but they left blown away by his mastery of Brazilian and Eastern European musical traditions"

Sarah M. Berry - JCC of Northern Virginia

"Here is a player who uses virtuosity not for self-aggrandizement but to glorify the music."

Raul da Gama -Latin Jazz Network

"Exquisite execution and virtuoso performances underpin a well-curated selection of music"

Ken Avis - Baltimore Jazz Alliance

"This is some brilliant Brazilian jazz."

Dan Bilawsky -All About Jazz

Brazilian composer and saxophonist Michel Nirenberg can play just about any music genre that beckons him. In 2015 his debut album, *Portrait*, was released in the U.S.A where it was met with critical and popular acclaim. Blending Brazilian styles with American jazz, the recording rose to No. 6 in the jazz category of the CMJ music charts in the States and won him the ears of leading players and ardent fans at home in Rio de Janeiro.

Nirenberg's great grandfather was a Chazzan (cantor) in Warsaw, Poland and later in Rio de Janeiro. The family was led to Brazil before WWII by his great uncle, Henrique. That uncle and Michel's grandfather, Jacques, performed internationally with the Brazilian String Quartet. Young Nirenberg continues the tradition. With a BA from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and MA in classical performance from James Madison University in Virginia, he has played countless concerts, performed in a play, given cultural lectures and taught master classes.

Michel Nirenberg's artistic excellence as a performer and well-crafted repertoire have been shared in two successful U.S. tours and a 2017 tour of Israel where he experienced many sold out shows and standing ovations. His third North American tour will also include Canadian cities.



BRAZILIAN STRING QUARTET

Thankfully for music lovers, the prolific young composer has skillfully married modernity with tradition in his latest round of compositions. They reflect his classical and jazz training, his embrace of traditional and popular Brazilian styles and, most importantly, his Jewish heritage.

After a sold out performance at the JCC of Northern Virginia, Cultural Arts Director Sarah M. Berry said, "When Nirenberg took our stage, our audience was ready for a musical treat, but they left blown away by his mastery of Brazilian and Eastern European musical traditions, his unique compositions, and his endearing stage presence."

Nirenberg is ready to share his family's rich cultural history and his stunning new compositions with more Jewish Community Centers in North America. Audiences can look forward to the inspiring piece, "Faith," which is dedicated to Rabbi Stephen Suson of Congregation Har Tzeon-Agudath Achim in Maryland. Also on the program is the masterpiece, "Nirenberg in the Shtetl," unveiled in 2017. Full of personal insights and fusing traditional Jewish musical styles with Brazilian and American jazz, the piece can be compared to Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" as a major musical achievement. The piece will undoubtedly continue to bring audiences of all ages and backgrounds to their feet.



MICHEL NIRENBERG
BRAZILIAN QUARTET