

Sergio Mendes and his Brasil '66 are a small, handsome troupe currently producing some of the largest, handsomest sound around. It's a very Mod Latin Jazz sound, an expert and tasteful blending of cool vocalizing and very-warm-for-May tempos.

It's as right now as this morning's news (and easier to take). It swings with a light foot and a light heart and it makes for surprising and exciting variations in feeling and pace.

Sergio Mendes, who created the sound, guides the proceedings from his well-trained piano. Lani Hall and Janis Hansen handle the closeknit, soaring, distinctive vocal harmonies. Jose Soares is the Latin percussionist who along with Bob Matthews on bass join Mendes in vocal collaboration. Joao Palma is on drums.

On this second Sergio Mendes and Brasil '66 album for A&M, the fine supporting guitar sound belongs to John Pisano.

The prevailing musical weather is nicely temperate: brisk and sunny or, equally, soft and moonlit. As on the Equinox, that first day of spring and of autumn, when night and day are in perfect balance.

Charles Champlin, Los Angeles Times