

1. Os Namorados: Eu Quero Um Samba

(J. de Almeida / H. Barbosa) Editoria Musical Brasileira Ltda. (UBC)
From *Os Namorados*; orig. 78 rpm issue, Sinter S-532
Rec. 1953; prod. by Paulo Serrano; © 1953 Sinter

Os Namorados (Donato, Nanai, Miltoninho, Chico and Julio), vocals; arr. by João Donato

Formed in 1953, blending ex-members of two other vocal groups (Os Modernistas and Namorados da Lua), Os Namorados, though a short-lived ensemble, had enough time to cut this fantastic version of a song introduced by Lúcio Alves in 1945. It is the first time that the bossa nova beat (then, of course, an unknown term) appears on a recording, heard on Donato's accordion. Gilberto would later adapt and perfect this beat for the guitar.

2. Elizeth Cardoso: Chega de Saudade

(A. C. Jobim / V. de Moraes) Arapua Editora Musical /
Ralph Maria Siegel Musik Edition Nachfolger GmbH & Co. KG (München)
From *Canção do Amor Demais*; orig. LP: Festa 6002
Rec. January 1958; prod. by Irineu Garcia; © 1958 Festa
Mit freundlicher Genehmigung von Festa

Elizeth Cardoso, vocal; João Gilberto, guitar; Vidal, bass; Dom Um Romão, drums; Copinha, flute; Edson Maciel, trombone; Irani Pinto, violin (concertmaster); Nidia Soledade, cello; João Gilberto, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Walter Santos, backing vocals; arr. by Antonio Carlos Jobim

Officially considered the “first bossa nova recording,” mostly because it was the first time Gilberto's guitar beat (from then on the official bossa beat) was heard, it had the impact of an atomic bomb on the Brazilian music scene. It is interesting to note that Cardoso, already recognized as one of Brazil's best singers ever, was never identified as a bossa singer, although she would also record for the legendary Black Orpheus soundtrack, another bossa landmark (she is the non-credited singer on the original version of “Manhã de Carnaval”).

3. João Donato: Outra Vez

(A. C. Jobim) Peer International Corp. / Peer Musikverlag GmbH (Hamburg)
From *A Bossa Muito Moderna de Donato e Seu Trio*; orig. LP: Polydor 4107
Rec. December 1963; prod. by João Mello; © 1964 Polydor

João Donato, piano; Sebastião Neto, bass; Milton Banana, drums; Amaury Rodrigues, percussion

Originally composed as a samba-canção (a kind of slow samba influenced by the bolero, which was in fashion in Brazilian music of the '50s), and introduced by Dick Farney in 1954, “Outra Vez” was adopted into the bossa repertoire after its recording by Cardoso with Gilberto in '58. Curiously, this beautiful version has a more conservative (and contemplative) approach, remembering the pre-bossa groups that used to perform in Rio's nightclubs in the mid-'50s.