

## Burning bossa to melt 'elevator' mold

By Patricia Myers  
Staff writer

**SCOTTSDALE** — The music of Brazil isn't what most people think — it's not just fashion-show bossa novas or party-time sambas.

"There's much more to it than that," says Claudio Slon. "There's a less-commercial style of Brazilian music that uses African rhythmic influences with jazz harmonics."

He should know. Slon is a drummer who has worked with the world's best, from Herbie Mann and Sergio Mendes to Ivan Lins and Antonio Carlos Jobim himself.

Slon, who moved here in 1994, will lead his original West Coast quartet at 8 p.m. Saturday with hits like *Wave*, *One Note Samba*, *Meditation* and *Desafinado*.

"The bossa nova was used for romantic moods and fashionable events because of the easy-sounding guitar. It was type-cast at the beginning and slowly became 'elevator music,'" says Slon, 52.

"But there's another side of Brazilian music that is definitely more high-energy. That's the kind of music my quartet plays. We can play all the American standards in a Brazilian way, and all the Brazilian standards in a jazz way,

### IF YOU GO

**Claudio Slon's Ipanema Jazz Quartet**

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Saturday.

**WHERE:** SunBurst Resort, 4925 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale.

**ADMISSION:** \$18, reservations to 945-7666.

so it mixes both styles.

"On Saturday, we'll play Jobim — *One Note Samba* and songs from *Black Orpheus* and *The Girl from Ipanema* — but we'll make it burn. We'll give it new clothing."

At two music festivals in Brazil in May, Slon performed with the family of legendary composer Dori Val Caymii, considered the Duke Ellington of Brazil. "Dori Val is eightysomething and the band also had his son, Dori, and his daughter, Nana, who's a singer.

"I'll go with Nana in September to the Monterey (Calif.) Jazz Festival, after that to San Francisco to play in the Great American Music Hall and then to the Blue Note in New York."

Slon also has a trio recording date lined up in Denver for a

jazz-club owner who is Russian and is arranging a tour of his native country.

Born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Slon began percussion studies at 14 and by 17 had won the "New Star Award" in the 1960 Brazilian jazz critics' poll.

His father, concertmaster with the Sao Paulo Philharmonic Orchestra, insisted on Classical lessons, so Slon played two years as first percussionist with the orchestra.

"At the same time, I had my jazz trio playing in clubs, and I was always walking around with jazz records under my arms," he recalls. Slon's first American session with Walter Wanderly resulted in *Summer Samba* becoming a top pop single.

He later worked with Ella Fitzgerald, Barry White, Frank Sinatra, Billy Eckstine, Herbie Hancock, Branford Marsalis and

those singin' and dancin' Jackson kids.

For this concert, the fifth in the SunBurst Resort Summer Jazz Series, Slon has assembled members of his Los Angeles quartet, pianist Frank Zotoli, a graduate of Berklee Music School in Boston, who performs in Brazil and Los Angeles; Brazilian-born bassist Octavio Bailly, who has been performing with Slon for more than 30 years and recorded with Cannonball Adderly in Brazil; and saxophonist Doug Norwine, a Los Angeles studio musician.

Seating is limited; reservations are advised, called to 945-7666.

The series continues July 13 with trumpeter Bobby Shew, followed by the Jeff Hamilton Trio on July 20, Holly Hofmann and Bill Cunliffe Quintet on Aug. 3, and New Orleans trumpeter Kermit Ruffins on Aug. 10.