

emigrated to the United States where he signed with Verve Records. The six albums he made with Verve and the two with CTIA&M represent the peak of his career and most productive years. Each of these albums with their beautiful arrangements, interesting cover art and gatefolds, extensive liner notes and translations of Portuguese titles were small masterpieces. They have become greatly prized by collectors who now pay anywhere from 20 to 40 dollars each for the LPs or import CDs.

His first album for Verve was *Rain Forest*, which was recorded in May of 1966 and produced by Creed Taylor, and included a handwritten

endorsement by Tony Bennett which read, "If you like Ella, Duke, Count, Sinatra... you'll love Walter Wanderley's music." It reached number 22 on the Billboard album chart and eventually went Platinum. A single from the album, "Summer Samba," was a top 40 hit, reaching number 26 on the singles chart. In the Fall of 1966 the song was heard constantly on American radio stations and helped establish bossa nova as a genre in its own right.

Over the period of one week in September of 1966, Wanderley recorded two more albums for Verve. The first of the two albums to be released, *A Certain Smile, A Certain Sadness*, featured the vocals of Astrud Gilberto, whose vocals on Stan Getz and João Gilberto's 1964 version of "The Girl from Ipanema" had made her world-famous. Like *Rain Forest*, the next album, entitled *Chagance* (The Great Arrival), consisted mainly of instrumental versions of popular bossa nova tunes and featured

percussionists Bobby Rosengarden. Between the time of the September 1966 recording sessions and his next recording session for Verve the following summer, Sergio Mendes, like Wanderley a former jazz instrumentalist, released his first two albums for A&M featuring a mixture

of Brazilian music and bossa nova covers of current pop favorites. The influence of Mendes can be felt particularly in the vocal tracks of the Wanderley's next album, *Batucada*, recorded that summer, and featured singers, Talya Ferro and Claudio Miranda.

The album, *Kee-Ka-Roo*, is closer in style to *Rain Forest* than any of the three albums between, and has a sort of Martin Denny feel to it in his use of exotic Brazilian instruments. His last album for Verve, a joint project with singer Luis Henrique, entitled *Popcorn*, is by far his weakest effort for that label, despite enthusiastic liner notes by Rex Reed. There are a few good Henrique songs though, the best of which are included in the recent *Talkin'* Verve release.

When producer Creed Taylor was offered his own label and a million dollar contract by Herb Alpert, Wanderley, along with Jobim and jazz

legend Wes Montgomery, was one of the musicians he took with him. Creed Taylor was committed to bossa nova, and over the next three years he produced the "Wave" and "Tide" albums by Antonio Carlos Jobim, an album by Milton Nascimento, two albums by Tamba 4 (formerly the Tamba Trio) as well as two albums by Walter Wanderley.

With his own label, Creed Taylor exerted even more influence as a producer than he did at Verve. With the resources available to Wanderley at CTI (which included engineering at the Van Gelder Studios and some of the best studio musicians of the time), he made his two finest albums. Both *When it Was Done* and *Moondreams* were released in 1969. Despite a few Sergio Mendes-like vocal numbers, these albums, along with Jobim's "Wave" and "Tide", marked the return of bossa nova to its cool jazz roots.

Wanderley ended his career at GNP where he made his last two albums,

Brazil's Greatest Hits in 1979 and *Perpetual Love Motion* in 1981. Like Sergio Mendes, he had emigrated to California, where he died of cancer at the age of 54 on September 4, 1986.

Wanderley's music might have been consigned to the dustbin of history, had not a small independent record company been so intent on releasing his work on CD. Caroline Records, which was releasing the work of Martin Denny on its *Scamp* label and producer Irwin Chusid, responsible for an Esquivel