



## Dee Bell

### DISCOGRAPHY

Let There Be Love, Concord CJ206  
One By One, Concord CJ271  
Sagacious Grace, Laser 0708  
Silva.Bell.Elation, Laser 0716

### RECORD COMPANY

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### PRODUCTION

Alberto Hernandez, Engineer,  
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December 2017

Marcos Silva, Producer  
Jeremy Goody, Megasound Mastering  
Oakland

## Lins, Lennox & Life | Tracks One Sheet | Dee Bell Laser Records 0721

With six of Ivan Lins' songs, three with lyrics by Dee Bell, five sung in English and one in Brazilian, plus two songs by Annie Lennox, and one song by Marcos Silva, this latest "West Coast cool with a Brazilian swing jazz twist" is Bell's "balm for a weary world." The lyrics of *Evolution* are particularly relevant given today's current affairs, and all of the music is offered with the intent to soothe our anxious minds. Dee's two pairings with the flugelhorn of Erik Jekabson evoke that of June Christy and Chet Baker.

### LINS

Like a number of Brazilian music fans, Ivan Lins holds a huge place in my heart. Maria Marquez introduced me to his music in 1985. She and I were each performing regularly on the San Francisco music scene and I attended several of Maria's performances because of an affinity I had with her sound and her *Canto Del Pilon* CD. She gifted me a tape of a variety of Brazilian vocalists and musicians. To this day, each song and artist on that tape are my favorites, especially Ivan Lins. I have wanted to record his music since my first hearing of *Bilhete*. Thank you Maria!

To record Lins' music in Brazilian Portuguese denies his music any would-be listener who does not speak the language, so with Ivan's permission, I translated what I hoped was the larger part of his intention in his Portuguese lyrics. This permission would not have been possible without Marcos Silva's help with the interface, both with the communication and with the understanding of the lyrics. Thank you Marcos! (Brazilian Jazz Studies - Berkeley)

*By Chance (Acaso)* has been sung with other English lyrics, but my intention was to at least hint at what Lins was trying to communicate with the original lyrics and the beautiful melodic line. Erik Jekabson lends his caressing flugelhorn sound to this track.

Perhaps our paths were crossed by chance - or did you choose to walk my way? -  
I'll never know unless you tell - Perhaps our souls chose us to dance

Before the pain of loneliness, - had turned to peace and solitude -  
The agony of passion gone at last - and suffering vanished from my past

And that's when you found me - changed my future - and lit up my life with discovery  
I was changed and alive and then rapture stormed my heart

Perhaps our paths were crossed by chance - or did you choose to walk my way? -  
I'll never know unless you tell - but here we are in love today

*After the Storm (Depois dos Temporais)* has been a favorite since jazz aficionado Donna Shore took me to a live performance of Ivan's 2008 album *Saudades de Casa* at Yoshi's San Francisco. I first heard Leonardo Amuedo there and can't stop listening to his guitar solo on this song. That solo led to a deep desire to find a way to sing this song. Marcos Silva helped me to understand the lyrics, although they can be interpreted in more than one way. Most songs can have a self, a divine, or a political attribution.

Once was a time we sailed in true love - Sharing our thoughts - as though from the same mind -  
as though from the same thoughts - as though we were one boat -  
sailing true over smooth seas - fair winds billowing sails

Storms then crashed upon our heaven - Angry waves tossed us all about - We lost sight of all the stars -  
We lost our course - we lost our way - 'til violent thunder stilled to silence -  
stilled to peace upon the seas - the calm after the storm

Now once again we sail in true love - Leaving the port to follow starlight - following moonlight -  
feeling the waves swell - feeling the winds - and the pull of the tides

We danced like dolphins cresting on the waves - breached like whales - in joyful longing for the sky -  
The way is clear - our boat is powerful and strong - Tears and fears, they drift away - as we sail into the blue

*Crying of the Waters (Choros das Aguas)* Marcos offered this song as one of his favorites and again, helped me stay as true as possible to the original intention of the song. For the purpose of healing, when one allows pain to be experienced fully, freedom follows. This song conjures suffering and a way through it.

These are tears that burst from my heart - broken and burning my soul apart - I can't disguise all the pain on my face - tears that wash away this heart

This pain is more than I can bear - like splinters of glass sprinkling into my eyes - bleeding inside to outside I cry - Crying that bleeds away this heart -

Just like the water that washes the walls - down through the faucets, the gutters, the rails - the water of tears that cleanses my heart - a heart dro-ow-ning in tears

*Boa Nova* is sung in Brazilian Portuguese. Would that I could translate the beauty of this sweet and happy song into English, but it includes some places and living beings that even Marcos, a native Brazilian, has never known. A man sees a woman for the first time and her loveliness reminds the man of every beautiful place, animal, or thing in Brazil in his memories.

*Evolution* was translated into English by Brock Walsh for Ivan's 1989 release of the CD *Love Dance*. Given the state of affairs in the US today, it is time for a fresh hearing of the song. "welcome back tyrannosaurus, ...evolution is a state of mind....maybe we can get it right this time." As a nation, we are currently being led backwards by a dinosaur of a different sort. Erik Jekabson's flugelhorn on this track is reminiscent of Chet Baker.

*Believe What I Say* was recorded by Patti Austin together with Ivan in 1984 on the album *Junto*. Patti penned and sang the English lyrics and Ivan sang the Brazilian lyrics for his composition, *Daquilo Que Eu Sei*.

## LENNOX

To be witnessed by the wide variety of songs on my *Silva.Bell.Elation* departure from swing jazz, even though my first love is jazz, I enjoy any music that tells a good story and that touches me deeply. Annie Lennox's first solo album, *Diva*, from 1992 did just that and still does. However, finding a way to move her music to a jazz chordal reference was a challenge. I presented two of her songs to Marcos Silva, who had worked his miracle on our last album with Neil Young's *Harvest Moon*, and with Joni Mitchell's *Night in the City*. As Marcos' puts it, "You give me one egg and expect me to bake a cake." Marcos is a fantastic baker, even with the simplest of ingredients. He rises to every challenge.

*Stay By Me* presents the blush of new love and how, when deep in the feeling, the desire is to hold on to the source. May we all find that source of love deep within us and hold onto it in the face of all that is contrary.

*Primitive* offers a lyric path through the obstacles that stand in the way of love and cause us to "lose that loving feeling." That path is remembering that we all one day return to ash.

## LIFE

There are two songs that we sandwiched in with the others to complete the recording and the alliteration, that were obviously not written by Lins, or Lennox.

*What Might Have Been*, both the lyric and the music, were written by Marcos Silva about a girl he met on a flight to Brazil with whom destiny did not allow a fulfilled relationship. A reminder that we should be living in the moment, but not without grace and integrity?

*That Old Black Magic*. Who can ever argue with a Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer song? I grew up with the Keely Smith, Louis Prima version. Keely's straight delivery of the song provided a comic relief to the intensity of what occurs when one is in the grip of "that old black magic." This song is a sample of the idea that brought the Silva.Bell team together in the first place; Dee's desire to sing what she calls Brazilian Swing or the merging of her swing phrasing over Marcos' Brazilian Jazz chordal and rhythmic expertise.

The listener is invited to get comfortable and experience the intended ease and tranquility of the music. The CD has just enough vivacity with *Boa Nova*, *Believe What I Say* and *That Old Black Magic*, to keep one focused and relaxing into this "balm for a weary world" and come out of the journey with a refreshed point of view.

As Scott Yanow, jazz journalist/historian concludes in his liner notes, "It also serves as a perfect introduction to the musical magic of Ivan Lins and the beautiful singing of Dee Bell."

Marcos Silva, Keyboards | Dee Bell, Vocals | Tyler Harlow, bass | Zach Mondlick, drums | Erik Jekabson, flugelhorn