



## Wenche Gausdal *Alegria*

*Dag Arnesen, Ole Thomsen, Sigurd Ulveseth, Frank Jakobsen, Celio de Carvalho*

Wenche Gausdal grew up in Sarpsborg, and already at the age of 5 she started her musical career standing on a box outside the local store singing in order to earn a little money for buying candy.

In her teens she joined local bands and toured the county, and later most of Norway.

Eventually her main focus turned to jazz, and together with her husband, Dag Arnesen, she has done a lot of touring home and abroad and released several recordings.

Early in the 90's she met the Brazilian percussionist, Celio de Carvalho, with whom she has played regularly ever since. Through meeting Celio she discovered a new world of music.

Over the years Wenche has become more and more absorbed in Brazilian music. She has looked for and found the music and culture in Rio de Janeiro and in Salvador, Bahia, and the love and fascination has grown deeper by every visit there.

Since the 90's she has put together various bands in her hometown Bergen to play this music and the desire to do a recording has grown stronger and stronger.

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Wenche wants to pass on the joy she has experienced while being among the audience in samba clubs in Brazil. And the title, "Alegria", means in fact "joy" in Portuguese.

When she finally decided to do a recording, she chose to bring musicians she knows well into the studio. After many years of collaboration and friendship, these musicians have become "family" as much as colleagues, and they all share a passionate relation to Brazilian music.

Brazil has fostered quite a number of wonderful composers/lyricists, and the repertoire on the CD is a collection of musical gems from Milton Nascimento, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Vinicius de Moraes, Ivan Lins and Toquinho, to mention some. Here is everything from tender bossanova to intense samba, and Wenche interprets the music in her personal way.

We hope the listener will enjoy our Brazilian music - with a Norwegian twist - and experience it fresh and a bit different in the music world.



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