

Keep an ear out for a variety of new projects Marilyn has in the works for 2020, among them: more touring with Joe Lovano, as well as the release of another recording with him later this year. She also has gigs lined up with Dave Douglas and Susie Ibarra, and a trio with Mike Formanek, as well as solo bookings and a trio recording as a leader. "I've been tying up a lot of loose ends. It feels like it's going to be a productive time. I feel stirrings of thing wanting to happen," Marilyn muses. "I feel like I have new energy for doing things lately. I was kind of burned out for a while."

Hear now

Seeking out seldom-heard material and making it their own is an ongoing goal for many musicians who enjoy the thrill and challenge in expanding repertoires and musical horizons. **Kerry Politzer** may have discovered her melodic holy grail when she heard Brazilian musicians in New York playing compositions by Durval Ferreira.



Kerry Politzer, *Jazz Forum*

Kerry recently released her sixth album, *Diagonal: A Tribute to Durval Ferreira*, on which she delivers a mix of tunes the Brazilian composer and guitarist wrote or co-wrote, along with three originals inspired by him. "He operated at the intersection between bebop and bossa nova. I wanted them to be in his style, with bebop-y melodies and Brazilian rhythms," notes the Portland, Oregon-based pianist. *Diagonal* is only the second album to pay tribute to Durval, who died in 2007. His daughter Amanda Bravo also released a recent homage.

Durval earns high marks from Brazilian-music cognoscenti, but isn't well-

known in the U.S. Though he worked with artists such as Cannonball Adderley, Sarah Vaughan, Sergio Mendes and Leny Andrade, who recorded his compositions, Durval released only one recording as a leader. "It's the most wonderful album, with a fantastic cast of musicians and performers," Kerry says. "He always supported the careers of others. Durval was a sought-after accompanist and great producer rather than a renowned soloist."

A performance and recording grant for a two-part Durval Ferreira tribute from Portland's Regional Arts and Culture Council supported the project, which presented a dual challenge. Kerry aimed to play a concert of the Brazilian composer's works as close to the source as possible, and also reimagine his material for the recording. To prepare, Kerry—who recalls first seeing arrangements by the guitarist and composer in a workshop with percussionist Vanderlei Pereira—combed online archives such as imnub.org for tunes Durval penned pre-1970, and transcribed 30 of them.

"For the first part of the project, I did a concert in Portland playing 16 of his tunes, close to his version. For the record, I wrote all of the arrangements, reharmonizing them, using new time signatures. I love Brazilian jazz and bossa nova and wanted to put my own spin on the material."

She was accompanied in concert and on the album by her band Bossa PDX, which includes her husband, the noted pianist George Colligan, on drums. "We've played together since 2000. He's always listening, he always seems to know what you need," she says. Multi-instrumentalist John Nastos, guitarist Ben Graves, bassist Tim Carey and percussionist Simon Lucas are also Bossa PDX regulars.

On *Diagonal*, Kerry provides vocals on several of the 11 tunes. She sang on some of her previous albums, but wasn't satisfied with the results. "I started taking singing lessons in Portland, and was emboldened to try again to do something with singing," she says. "I love the Brazilian bossa nova vocal tradition. I love to listen to it, it's soothing an uplifting to listen to and perform."

Kerry heads east to celebrate the release of *Diagonal* at the **Jazz Forum** on **Feb. 23**; the gig also marks the New York debut of her originals written for the Durval tribute. Saxophonist Laura Dreyer, a long-time friend and colleague, joins her on the bandstand of the Tarrytown club. "We met in 1996, when we were both in Diva," the pianist notes. "She's an arranger and composer who has played a lot of Brazilian music. We're bi-coastal collaborators, playing together in Oakland, Portland and New York." Rounding out the quartet are bassist Eduardo Belo and drummer Mauricio Zottarelli.