

September 7, 2006

Dr. Carolyn Bruder
Director, Academic Planning & Faculty Development

Dear Dr. Bruder:

I would like to propose a workshop by an outside consultant for the School of Music, given by Alfredo Cardim, a Brazilian pianist who has worked with many of the leading musicians from his country. He now lives in the Boston area and would come in one day, meet with faculty, give a workshop, and leave the next day. The workshop would help faculty learn how to teach an important sub-style in jazz performance that is difficult for North Americans to play authentically.

Many jazz musicians have performed samba and bossa nova songs from Brazil since the music became popular in the United States in the 1960's. Students in the jazz program learn to play the standard Brazilian songs with an American feel, and can best improve their feel by learning from artists from Brazil. Audio recordings are valuable resources but do not have the same impact on growth as meeting a native player and experiencing the way it is played in person. Recordings do not explain techniques, and there is a lack of published instructional materials for this style.

Mr. Cardim plans to cover the unique rhythm, harmony, vocal style, and instrumental sound of samba created in the late 1950's, as well as developments in bossa nova as played around the world today. He will help faculty understand characteristics of the music and to articulate important features when working with students. While the workshop is primarily for the jazz, performance, and composition faculty, it will be of interest as well to conducting, music education, and media professors. In addition, the workshop will be open to students, many of whom plan to be teachers in the future, giving them a rare opportunity to increase their understanding of the richness of the culture in South America's largest country, recognized around the world for its exciting music.

It is my understanding that funds for this program are usually used to bring in a consultant from a nearby area. As there is no known expert in this music in Louisiana we became interested in bringing Mr. Cardim from farther away. An artist of Mr. Cardim's stature requires using the grant fees as an honorarium. However, in order to meet the expenses of bringing in a guest from farther away, Gordon Brooks and Buddy Himes have expressed their willingness to cover his transportation and lodging.

The lecture will take place in February or March of the spring semester, which will give us time to prepare for the event appropriately. We will be able to arrange an exact date once the funding is in place, when Mr. Cardim can work it into his performance and recording schedule.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Willey
School of Music