

# *El Pampero*

*The Official Gato Barbieri Newsletter*

*Issue 2: June 2002*

## **Editor's Corner**

### *A Special Invitation*

¡Saludos, everyone! Welcome, new subscribers and welcome, everyone, to the second issue of *El Pampero*. As some of you may know, Gato will celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday this coming November 28<sup>th</sup> (2002). In honor of this auspicious occasion, I would like to put together a special edition of this newsletter, for which I invite your participation. If you would like to send any birthdays wishes for Gato to be included in the issue, I would be pleased to receive them. Please keep them to 100 words—or contact me if you have something longer you really want to share. If possible, send them to me by e-mail at: [jazzsleuth@earthlink.net](mailto:jazzsleuth@earthlink.net). I hope you enjoy this issue. Ciao for now and thank you for your continued support.

*Lois Roe, Editor*

## **Photo Gallery**

### *Summertime in Spring*

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, New York's CD 101.9 kicked off its 2002 Smooth Cruise season with the Gato Barbieri Quintet. After providing the soundscape for some great afterwork chillin', Gato and the band delivered a swinging rendition of George Gershwin's



*Summertime*, which got some of the little ones (and a few bigger ones) on their feet. *Photos courtesy of Rodrigo Schiffino, CD 101.9. To see more photos, visit:*



[www.cd1019.com/gallery/smoothcruise02\\_gato.jhtml](http://www.cd1019.com/gallery/smoothcruise02_gato.jhtml)

## **Sheet Music, Posters & Other Collectibles**

A number of you have asked how to obtain sheet music of Gato's compositions and arrangements, as well as other collectibles, such as posters. For those looking for sheet music of Gato's famous arrangement of *Europa*, the good news is that it is available for purchase at Sheet Music Plus ([www.sheetmusicplus.com](http://www.sheetmusicplus.com)). Unfortunately, this is the only sheet music of Gato's presently in print, but there is an out-of-print songbook entitled *Musical Selections from Last Tango in Paris* available through **Amazon.com** z-shops. **Poster Sultan** ([www.postersultan.com](http://www.postersultan.com)) is a great source of recent posters and **Paper Boy News** ([www.paperboynews.com](http://www.paperboynews.com)) is a great source of older promotional posters, and other older memorabilia, such as 45's (remember them?). Both Postersultan and Paper Boy News also place their items up for auction on **eBay** but you may wish to check items on their websites before bidding on eBay. Finally—and most important: know as much as possible about an item before bidding or purchasing. Occasionally things are listed as rare that actually aren't.

## Hamba Khale! A Landmark Reissued

By Lois Roe

**Hamba Khale!** (Orig. Confluence, 1968)  
Gato Barbieri and Dollar Brand (now  
Abdullah Ibrahim)  
*Actuel*, 2002

Backstage at Yoshi's (a wonderful jazz club in Oakland, California) in December, 1999, I waited to ask renowned South African pianist Abdullah Ibrahim (formerly Dollar Brand) for an autograph. A tall, stately and gracious man, Ibrahim had just mesmerized an entire audience that included many children with the classical beauty of his *African Suite*. But it was Ibrahim who seemed somewhat mesmerized when I handed him for signing my copy of his 1968 duet LP *Confluence* with Gato Barbieri. "Oh, that was a great day," he said finally after staring at the album for probably a full minute.

What made that afternoon so great? For over 30 years, the answer has been largely inaccessible to most of us as the LP was rare enough to be a true collector's item. Now, with its release on CD as *Hamba Khale!*, this early meeting of two now-legendary artists finally can be experienced firsthand.

And this is an album that really should be experienced, because it is hard to describe. It sounds—and was—truly organic: music created in the moment by two artists with very different backgrounds and musical styles coming together—hence the original

title, *Confluence*. The result is a series of four varied tunes, two by each artist.

The opening track, Ibrahim's short *Hamba Khale!* starts the CD on a fairly mellow note. In contrast, Barbieri's *To Elsa* (for Tiffany's jewelry designer Elsa Peretti who befriended the Barbieris when they first visited New York), which follows, is a two-part piece that features first Ibrahim and then Barbieri in complex and fiery solos.

*Eighty-First Street* is considerably more melodic and also features Gato on percussion as well as tenor saxophone. The CD closes with Ibrahim's *Wildrose* (aka *The Aloe and The Wildrose*), with the two artists once again playing together—this time with Brand (Ibrahim) in a rare appearance on cello. "Early Cat" fans may find it interesting to compare Gato's later recording of this tune on *The Third World* with the one heard here.

Apart from a change in the sequence of tunes (not noted by Scott Yanow in his otherwise excellent liner notes), the tracks are exactly as they were on the original LP, with the same lengths. And while the change in track sequence changes the cadence, it does not diminish the overall quality of this CD, which is excellent.

This CD won't be for everyone—the music on it is quite complex and worlds away from Gato's lush signature song, *Europa*. But if you are prepared to listen with an open heart and mind, I recommend this as a very special piece of music history: a landmark in the careers of two amazing artists.



## Gato's Concert Calendar

On the heels of intense work on his new CD, Gato will be kicking back a bit until fall. Here are the concerts scheduled at present. I will send updates if more shows are added before the next newsletter.

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Venue/Location</b>	<b>Tickets/Information</b>
<b>July 19, 2002 (Friday)</b>	<b>Greater Hartford Jazz Festival Hartford, CT</b>	<b>FREE</b> <a href="http://www.jazzhartford.org">http://www.jazzhartford.org</a>
<b>September 6, 2002 (Friday)</b>	<b>Red River Music Hall Tempe, AZ</b>	<a href="http://www.redrivermusic hall.com">http://www.redrivermusic hall.com</a> <b>(800) 466-6779 or (480) 289-0607</b>
<b>September 7, 2002 (Saturday)</b>	<b>One World Theatre Austin, TX</b>	<a href="http://www.oneworldtheatre.org">http://www.oneworldtheatre.org</a> <b>(512) 330-9500 x14 or Star Ticket Outlet: (512) 469-SHOW</b>
<b>September 22, 2002 (Sunday)</b>	<b>Kresge Auditorium Cambridge, MA</b>	

### **Coming in September: *The Shadow of the Cat***

Great news for Cat fans everywhere: Gato has just finished recording a new CD! Produced by groove designer extraordinaire Jason Miles, *The Shadow of the Cat* is slated for release in September and features some very special musical guests. Full details will be in the September newsletter, but for a preview, check out the new interview with [Jason Miles on ContemporaryJazz.com](http://www.ContemporaryJazz.com).



*Bernardo Bertolucci and Gato at the Canadian "World Leaders: a Festival of Creative Genius," October 13, 2001  
(Photo by Laura Barbieri)*