

Houston Chronicle

Sunday, April 8, 1990

Ivo

Ivo Perelman
K2B2

Ivo Perelman is a 29-year-old Brazilian tenor saxophonist living in Los Angeles. For his American debut, he and producer Marty Krystall lined up an impressive guest roster, including percussionist Airtó, vocalist Flora Purim, keyboardists Don Preston and Elaine Elias, bassists John Patitucci and Buell Neidlinger, and drummer Peter Erskine.

Forget about tepid bossas, tourist sambas and, please, don't even mention lambada: Perelman's music blends the heated rhythms of northeast Brazil with the bracing experi-

mental freedom of jazz. Five of these pieces are traditional children's songs. Perelman's use of singsong melodies as a launching pad for complex, outward-bound improvisations will remind knowledgeable listeners of Ornette Coleman and Albert Ayler. Other source references could be drawn to Argentinian saxophonist Gato Barbieri and Brazilian pianist Hermeto Pascoal.

But forget the comparisons. Perelman has a brawny sound of his own that retains its lyricism even at its most abandoned. It's refreshing to hear the well-known guests pushed beyond the usual commercial boundaries, and Perelman's duet with Elias on Milton Nascimento's *Ponta de Areia* is exquisite. (K2B2 Records, 3112 Barry Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90066.)

★★★★ — RICK MITCHELL

How we rate the recordings:

- ★★★★ - Classic
- ★★★★ - Excellent
- ★★★ - Good
- ★★ - Fair
- ★ - Poor