

VIVA Brazil

BY JOHN ROSS
PHOTO BY WILL SHILLING

Five years ago in Paris, at a concert hall, sometime in the early evening, Maggie Green decided to go to Brazil.

The local jazz singer trained classically since childhood, studied vocal performance at Berklee College of Music and performed repertory material with a rotating group of Columbus musicians. But after hearing the rhythm, the intensity and the lush tones of Brazilian music at that Paris show, something was missing.

This is the most beautiful music I've ever heard, she thought to herself, listening to the sounds echoing above, *and I want it to be mine.*

She came home and started planning: First, a show of Brazilian music here in town, then, the study of Portuguese, the language of the South American nation.

Finally, she decided to make the plunge, to travel worlds away and record an album of Brazilian music. Such an album could be cut here—she recorded a debut of songbook standards in Columbus—but it might be overlooked, wouldn't feel authentic. To her, recording in Rio de Janeiro meant the best players, fresh air, immersion in the beaches and barrios that inspired the greats.

By the summer of 2005, after researching geography, gigs and session players, and saving enough to fund this crazy plan, a petite Ohio girl landed on Ipanema Beach eager to experience music, culture, people.

"First of all, there's so much history," Green said of Rio's bustling coastal neighborhood. "There's the mountains on each side of you, the sea in front of you and the city behind you. Everything is new when I'm down there—the food, the culture, the language."

During two years, Green logged numerous Brazilian trips to meet musicians and gain experience. And a spiritual, emotional journey started with a one-off gig in a mountain resort eventually became her second album, recorded in the country she dearly loves with accomplished musicians few in Ohio have ever heard.

She'll release *Maggie Green* with an early show Friday night at Rumba Café.

The bulk of her record will sound like Latin jazz to most local listeners, but the rich textures and vocals borrow from numerous genres and more than six decades of South American heritage. Most will understand few of the lyrics; instead they'll be carried away by the breezy melodies, the piano of Marcos Ariel, the fluttering drums of Kiko Freitas and the use of Portuguese as a rhythmic, percussive instrument.

"It's a mixed blessing," Green joked about bringing Brazilian music to the local masses. "I feel like I can introduce a lot of people to something they wouldn't necessarily get into, but I also get, 'Do you know anything in English?'"

MAGGIE GREEN
CD RELEASE SHOW
WHEN: Friday, October 12
WHERE: Rumba Café, North Campus
WEB: maggiegreen.com

