



**Baden Powell**  
***Tristeza On Guitar***

**MPS Records (LC00979)**  
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[www.mps-music.de](http://www.mps-music.de)

**More info and artwork:**

<http://www.herzogpromotion.com>

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Brazilian guitar maestro Baden Powell's seminal years with producer Joachim-Ernst Berendt and MPS stretch from 1966 to 1975, with a total of two sets of three LPs. "Tristeza On Guitar" was the beginning of this nine-year collaboration. The repertoire is in no way characterized by sadness, as the title might cause one to believe. It embraces a sublime spectrum ranging from a ritual feel to exuberant carnival atmosphere on through to intimate songs with a singable quality. Baden clothes the title piece, the famous bittersweet samba from Haroldo Lobo and Niltinho, in a dance-like virtuoso succession of variations. He fashions the theme "Manha De Carnaval" from the movie *Black Orpheus* into a ritualistic celebration of pain. The pieces dedicated to the gods of the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé religion ("Canto de Xangô", "Canto de Ossanha") are central to the album. They originate from the "Afro-sambas" music cycle completed four years earlier; here they have flowered to perfection. Monk's "Round Midnight" takes on the colors of a balmy tropical evening; the studio's ingenious use of space helps create the appropriately mysterious atmosphere. And in the middle lies a valuable solo inlay: Bahian poet Dorival Caymmi's unadorned song "Das Rosas" transformed into a serenade on the strings. Today, over half a century later, one still succumbs to this fascinating "gateway drug" – the first MPS album of this Brazilian maestro.

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