The exhibition Bringing Bossa Nova to the United States returns to the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives after its debut as part of the critically acclaimed Jazz Samba Project at Strathmore.

For nearly fifty years local radio broadcaster Felix Grant was a familiar voice to Washington, D.C. jazz lovers. His early interest in and fascination with Brazilian culture and music played a pivotal role in introducing bossa nova to the United States. The music’s impact particularly on the American jazz scene is explored through his involvement in promoting and supporting Brazilian music throughout his career.

The exhibition provides background on the birth and rise of the Brazilian musical genre bossa nova during the late 1950s and early 1960s beginning with the release of the film classic Orfeu Negro (Black Orpheus) in 1959 that triggered an international interest in Brazilian music and culture. It highlights the musicians and artists in the forefront of bossa nova’s development including the three giants who came to define the new music - João Gilberto, Antônio Carlos “Tom” Jobim, and Vinicius de Moraes.

This exhibition includes photographs, concert programs correspondence, awards, unique interviews of prominent artists such as João Gilberto, Leny Andrade, Sérgio Mendes and Dorival Caymmi; and a digital collection – Bossa Nova Project that forms the basis for digital exhibits that may be accessed online. Together they provide a glimpse into Brazilian music of this period and its explosive impact on the American jazz scene.

www.bossanova_project.us
www.jazzaliveudc.org