

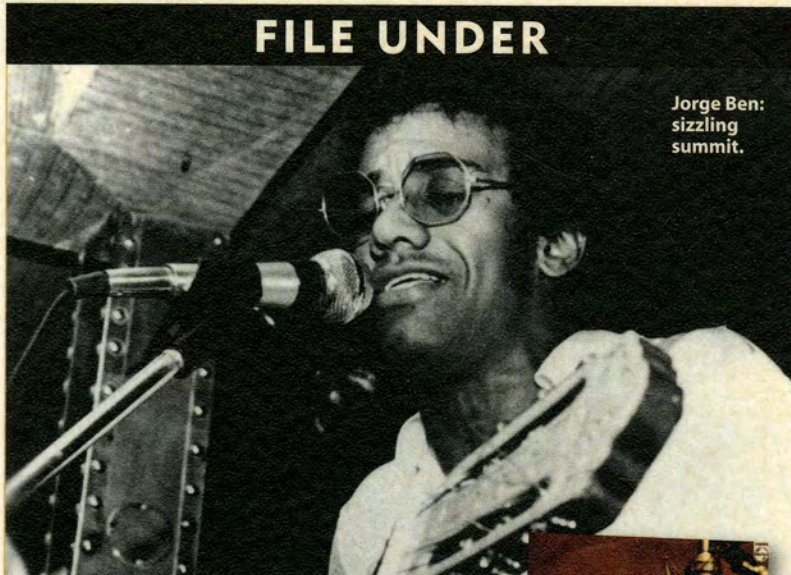
FREE
CD!

RADIOHEAD | THE BEATLES



FILTER REISSUES EXTRA

FILE UNDER



Jorge Ben:
sizzling
summit.

Dustbusters

Just back from digging in a bottomless crate, it's Jim Irvin, for funk's sake.



IN 1996, a website, www.dustygroove.com, opened up to lure seekers of rare funk, soul, jazz and hip hop from around the world to a Chicago-based store. Founders Rick Wojcik and John Schauer knew they'd attract crate-diggers in search of breakbeats and vinyl collectors keen to score limited-run reissues. The site and its bricks-and-mortar cousin have become trusted sources of recommendation, encouraging visitors to stray into cool backwaters – Tropicália, baile funk, Afro-beat, Serge Gainsbourg and Sun Ra. It was only a matter of time before they started issuing their own editions of desirable rarities, and yea verily: Dusty Groove America, launching with a handsome half-dozen CDs, musically unrelated except in their rarity.

I can't comprehend why so many of the great **Jorge Ben's** early albums remain unavailable, even in his Brazilian homeland. Almost everything he cut in the '60s and '70s is terrific. DG agree and have made *Força Bruta*, a sizzling summit with percussionists Trio Mocoto from 1970, part of their opening salvo. This is a key work in Ben's development of samba-soul, effortlessly compelling and uplifting, and is highly recommended. Now please can we have 1972's *Ben* back on CD too?

Dorothy Ashby is not a name I recognised, though it turns out I'm familiar with her work. She's that rare thing, a jazz harpist, and if a soul record includes harp it's usually her: Bill Withers, Earth, Wind & Fire and Stevie Wonder's *If It's Magic* from *Songs In The Key Of Life*. DG have uncovered a brilliant 1970 album recorded for Chess offshoot Cadet called *The Rubaiyat Of Dorothy Ashby* on which she performs her own material, singing and playing harp and koto in rich, soulful arrangements by conductor Richard Evans. Uncategorisable psychedelic Eastern-jazz with a warm groove results. Also highly recommended.

You might recall hearing the title track of *Jungle Fever* by **Chakachas** in Paul Thomas Anderson's *Boogie Nights*: seedy Latino funk interlaced with orgasmic coos and sighs. Their Polydor album from 1972 can't keep it up, sadly, and the rest is mostly standard loungey cha-cha-cha – but fascinating, as they're middle-aged white guys from Belgium!



Charlie Gillett Archive/Reclams



The rest of the batch comprises **La Clave's** super-rare self-titled Latin funk LP with Lalo Schiffrin connections, **Pete Jolly's** warm and mellow jazz centred around electric piano on *Seasons*, and **Melvin Jackson's** crazed 1969 outing, *Funky Skull*. Hands up anyone who owns all six originals...