A wind ensemble adaptation and conductor's analysis of selected movements of Darius Milhaud's Saudades do Brazil, with an examination of the influences of Ernesto Nazareth.

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Music
French composer Darius Milhaud (1892-1974) lived in Rio de Janeiro from early 1917 to late 1918 as an attaché to the French ambassador to Brazil. While there he discovered its popular music, in particular the works of the Brazilian pianist Ernesto Nazareth (1863-1934). Milhaud was fascinated by the Afro-Brazilian syncopated rhythms that constituted Brazilian popular music, which according to Milhaud “helped me better understand the Brazilian soul.” Milhaud’s Brazilian experiences profoundly affected his compositional style and inspired several important works in this idiom. Upon his return to France, Milhaud composed a suite of twelve dances for piano entitled Saudades do Brazil (Longings for Brazil). This suite displays Milhaud’s skillful melodic writing and renowned polytonal technique. The principal purpose of this project was to enhance the repertoire with a work from a composer of the early decades of the twentieth century, a time when few significant works were composed for wind band. By creating this adaptation, the author hopes to contribute a work of stylistic, historic, and musical significance.

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