

# Winter draws on music of Bulgaria

By Jae-Ha Kim  
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Six-time Grammy-winning saxophonist Paul Winter is back with his latest album, "Horn of Plenty."

"It is the literal meaning of cornucopia, the traditional Thanksgiving symbol of abundance," the musician said. "I have always referred to my soprano sax as a horn, and I've aspired to produce a voice on saxophone that is similar to that of a French horn."

Winter, 86, resides in northwest Connecticut.

This interview with Winter has been edited for length and clarity.

**Q: Did any of your travels inspire "Horn of Plenty"?**

**A:** Pieces on the album have been inspired by my experiences in Brazil, Ireland, Russia and Bulgaria, as well as the ocean and the Grand Canyon.

Of the 13 tracks on the album, "Harvest Faire" was inspired by my years of listening to Bulgarian music and my love of the unique rhythms of Balkan cultures. "Primavera (Spring)" traces its origins to my jazz sextet's 1962 tour of Latin America, when I met the song's composer, Carlos Lyra. Many years later, I was blessed to have the opportunity to record "Primavera" with the great Brazilian guitarist Oscar Castro-Neves.

And there are reinterpretations of several iconic chestnuts from my musical journey, including Ralph Towner's composition,



Pieces on Paul Winter's album "Horn of Plenty" were inspired by his experiences in Brazil, Ireland and Russia. **BILL ELLZEY**

"Icarus," which has been (my group) the Consort's theme song for over 50 years.

**Q: Do you have any upcoming trips planned?**

**A:** I'm looking forward to returning to Brazil, Japan and also California.

**Q: What are your hopes for the upcoming year?**

**A:** My perennial wish is that more and more people, especially of the younger generations, will return to the world of nature.

**Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?**

**A:** Brazil. I love the music, beaches, climate and people.

**Q: What was a trip you took as a child that stands out?**

**A:** When I was perhaps 5 years old, our family drove to Niagara Falls. The Falls were pretty scary to me, but very exciting.

**Q: What's the most important thing you've learned from your travels?**

**A:** My ongoing experience from a lifetime of travels to all 50 of our states and to 52 countries of the world is that we are all part of a great family of life.

**Q: If you could only pick one place to eat, would you prefer a food truck or fine dining?**

**A:** I'd prefer a vegan food truck, so I could then sit outside and eat.

**Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways?**

**A:** The woods near our home.

**Q: If you've ever gone away for the holidays, which was the best trip?**

**A:** Since 1980, the Consort and I have had the great privilege of being artists-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. For 40 years, we presented our Winter Solstice Celebrations there, with many guest artists from around the world and the world's largest gong to represent the return of the sun. Those celebrations were always the best trip! Also, for the past 45 years I've played at the Cathedral on Christmas Eve.

**Q: Do you have a knack for picking up new languages?**

**A:** I don't. I've been to Brazil many times, but I still speak Portuguese like Tarzan.

**Q: When you go away, what are some of your must-have items?**

**A:** Noise-canceling headphones for plane trips.

**Q: What kind of research do you do before you go away on a trip?**

**A:** I learn as much as possible about the geography of the region, so I have a mental map and don't have to rely on GPS.

For more from the reporter, visit [www.jaehakim.com](http://www.jaehakim.com).

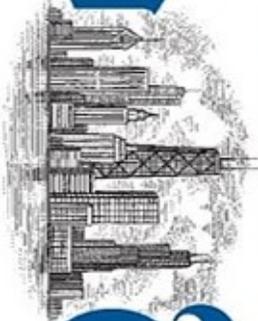


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