



APRIL 2010 ISSUE

Features ⊕ ⊕ ⊕

FROM THE EDITOR

In this Volume 20, Number 3, April 2010 issue of Latin Beat Magazine Online we traveled to Madrid in search of "Salsa Made in Spain." What we found was José Luis Morán (one of the main salsa exponents in the country) and Orquesta del Solar (the main salsa band in the Iberian Peninsula) as they temporarily joined forces to form a salsa powerhouse ensemble ready to take on the upcoming concert and festival seasons in Spain and throughout most of the European continent.

As always, we keep you informed with Latin music news and information, CD reviews, national and international salsa hit parades, calendar of events and our unique regional music columns. Check out our video corner and streaming music tracks. Bienvenidos to the world of Latin Beat Magazine Online (lbmo.com) –Rudy & Yvette Mangual

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José Luis Morán
La Rumba del Barrio
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Johnny Polanco y Su Conjunto Amistad

El Gusto de Mi Salsa

JOSÉ LUIS MORÁN "EL GATO SALSERO" & LA ORQUESTA DEL SOLAR: SALSA, MADE IN SPAIN

By Rudy Mangual

Photos courtesy of Felipe Ortiz

While the salsa music industry is at a standstill throughout most of North America these days, it still rules in the Caribbean, South America, and more recently in Europe. Salsa singer José Luis Morán as well as Orquesta del Solar are the leading exponents of this salsa movement currently happening in Madrid, Spain.

As of this writing, José Luis Morán and Orquesta del Solar (under the musical direction of Julio Mena) have decided to join forces

as one superpower salsa entity to capitalize on the current popularity of this musical genre. The Cuban rhythm-based dance form, which was initially fused with jazz and R&B modalities in the streets of New York City and Puerto Rico, and baptized as "salsa" in Venezuela and New York City, morphed into a social phenomena in the early 1970s throughout most Hispanic communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Soon thereafter, like wildfire, salsa spread throughout most of the Americas, gaining strength and power before taking on the rest of the planet. Today, salsa belongs to the world-from North to South America, from Europe to Asia, and from Australia to the Hawaiian Islands, everyone loves to salsa! In Spain, the passion for salsa and dancing is constantly escalating throughout the entire Iberian Peninsula fueled by local aficionados of the movement as well as the growing numbers of Latin American immigrants in the country. José Luis Morán and Orquesta del Solar are a big factor in the popularity of salsa in Spain through its continuous work and devotion to the music and its numerous annual and monthly performances in major festivals, concerts and venues throughout the country, as well as abroad throughout Europe.

José Luis "El Gato" Morán is responsible for coining the phase "Salsa: Made in Spain." Nicknamed "El Gato" (the cat) by the local Spanish media as an



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indication of his acceptance to the local scene, Morán is a native of Maracaibo, Venezuela, bitten by the salsa bug as a child. He started singing professionally in Venezuela with La Orquesta Rococó, followed by a time with the group Combinación 77. In the United States, he worked in Chicago with the



groups Samuel del Real, La Mayor, Tambores de Imbangala, and Huracán de Fuego. In the search for new experiences and opportunities Morán relocated to Spain in 2003, establishing himself in the capital city of Madrid. Soon thereafter, he started to win fans and music critics alike via performances such as his performance at the "Dia de America" festival in the city of Oviedo with an audience of over 250,000 people, and a similar audience at the "7th Festival Son Latino" in the island of Tenerife, where he dazzled the crowd with his spirited salsa renditions. His presentations are characterized by a constant interaction with the audience in a playful improvisational atmosphere full of rhythms and sounds. In the end, the audience, the dancers and everyone is immersed in the performance. Since his arrival to Spain, José Luis Morán has shared stages with legendary artists Richie Ray and Bobby Cruz, Larry Harlow (who praised "El Gato's" talents and salsa acumen), Oscar D'León, Adalberto Santiago, Chucho and Bebo Valdés, Carlinhos Brown, and Tito Nieves, among others. In 2008, José Luis was nominated and participated in the Latin Grammys of Spain. The following year, several of his songs were included in the soundtracks of the Spanish films "La Vergüenza", and "La Mujer Sin Piano." Both of these films were critically acclaimed, winning awards in film festivals in 2009. More importantly is the fact that this was the first time that Spanish cinematography included original salsa compositions (instead of Cuban or Latin American compositions) in its soundtracks. In recent years, Morán has been invited to European events such as "Toros y Salsa" in Dax, France and Frankfurt's "World Music Festival." In Spain, he has participated in the annual "Musicas del Mundo" festival in Madrid; "En Clave de Son" festival in Santander; "Womex" festival in Seville; "El Teide" in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and numerous other music festivals in the cities of Cadiz, Zamora, Ibiza, Guadalajara, Bilbao, Alicante, Valencia, Barcelona, Santiago de Compostela, and Zaragoza.

The following is a chat with the salsa singer from his home in Madrid, Spain.

Rudy Mangual: José Luis, how did you become a salsa singer?

José Luis Morán: As a native Venezuelan I grew up listening and admiring old-school salsa from the 1970s and 1980s. Artists such as Rubén Blades, Tito Allen, Oscar D'León, El Trabuco Venezolano, Son 14 and Irakere were among my favorites as a teen. From Puerto Rico, Tommy Olivencia, El Gran Combo and everyone from the Fania catalog as well. Listening to these great singers, I fell in love with salsa music and singing.

RM: How do you define

salsa? JLM: Now that I'm an interpreter of salsa and live in Madrid, I see salsa as an international music form. My band Orquesta Madridcaibo, as well as Orquesta del Solar, which I just joined up with, are both composed of multi-national musicians from all over the world; for example, the bands are comprised of musicians from Spain, Mexico, Cuba and Colombia. And traveling throughout



Europe I find salsa bands with local musicians in Germany, Sweden, France and Israel.

Therefore, that old concept that salsa bands and musicians are Cuban, Puerto Rican or Latin Americans, is invalid anymore. Salsa belongs to the world. That's why the salsa that I perform with my band as well as other bands in Spain should be considered salsa made in Spain, regardless of my Venezuelan origin, as well as that of the musicians that share the stage with me. The quality of the salsa music being produced in Spain and throughout Europe is comparable to that made in New York City, Puerto Rico, Cuba or Venezuela.

RM: Which are the most popular Caribbean rhythms of your Spanish audiences? JLM:

Salsa dancers in Spain prefer salsa dura or salsa brava interpretations (old-school salsa). While there are some that like and dance chachachá as well as bachata and boleros, hard-core salsa is still the overall favorite of dance crowds.

La Orquesta del Solar

La Orquesta del Solar is the premier salsa orchestra of Spain, always ready to back up any and all visiting salsa artists to the Iberian Peninsula, as well as the rest of Europe. Its credits include performing for Adalberto Santiago, Cheo Felliciano, Hermán Olivera, Frankie Vázquez, Ray de la Paz, and Meñique, among many others. Directed by Julio Mena (a native of



Ecuador) who has been living in Madrid for over three decades, La Orquesta



del Solar is modeled after the hard-core sound of New York City salsa bands of the 1970s. Mena, who has worked as a salsa DJ, musician and promoter has singlehandedly promoted salsa throughout Madrid for decades and is responsible for creating many of the scene's major venues. Orquesta del Solar was established by Mena in 2005 and was baptized with this name by the popular New York City-based salsa trombonist/bandleader Jimmy Bosch, during his performance at the Salsa Congress of Murcia that same year. Bosch was so overcome with the sound and musicianship of the band as they backed him up during that special event that he felt compelled to suggest to Mena this heartfelt name for the band. Mena liked the name and so the rest is history. The band is composed by musicians from over 10 different nationalities and as many musical backgrounds and schools of thought. But they all share a very special passion and hunger to play hard-core New York Style salsa. While they are all individually unique, together and musically they are amazing. Mena agrees that the band is heavily influenced by the sounds and styles of the New York salsa bands of Eddie Palmieri, Manny Oquendo, Tito Rodríguez, Fania All Stars and Conjunto Experimental Nuevayorkino, as well as the Puerto Rican bands Sonora Ponceña, Tommy Olivencia, Puerto Rico All Stars, and Roberto Roena y su Apollo Sound. Orquesta del Solar's debut CD recording is scheduled to be released later on this year with a repertoire of scores tailor-made for hard-core salsa dancers. In recent years, the band has performed throughout all the major cities of Spain as headliners and backed up salsa superstars in Europe, including special performances in Greece ("Todo Latino Salsa Festival"), Portugal ("International Salsa Symposium"), and Sweden ("Salsa Festival of Zurich"), as well as festivals in France, Germany and Italy.

This summer, José Luis "El Gato" Morán will be fronting the popular La Orquesta del Solar, creating a powerhouse super salsa orchestra ready to take over the entire European continent with its amazing salsa sounds. So, if you are living in Europe, or are planning to visit Europe this summer, try to catch this special salsa extravaganza. See you on the dance floor. ¡Que Viva la salsa!



Cien Canciones de JOHNNY ORTIZ

Recopiladas por Gary Domínguez, "El DJ. Errante de Cali, Colombia"

El campeón puertorriqueño de billar y poeta urbano JOHNNY ORTIZ, nacido en Isabela en 1946, está considerado como el compositor con vida del género salsa que ha elaborado el mayor número de temas grabados. Ortiz es un alumno adelantado del fallecido Tite Curet Alonso que desde el año 1971, se fue colando entre los surcos y los discos de las



más importantes instituciones salseras de Nueva York, Puerto Rico y el resto del Caribe.

Ha llegado el momento de rendirle tributo y reconocimiento en vida. Este es un modesto listado de Cien Canciones de JOHNNY ORTIZ; escogidas entre más de 400 composiciones!

¡Descubra la obra del poeta de nuestra RAZA LATINA!

1. Cachombe **Tony Pabón Y La Protesta**
2. Boga Sin Vela **Tony Pabón Y La Protesta**
3. Ololuiqui **Chaparro**
4. El Quincallero **La Protesta**
5. El Errante **La Protesta**
6. Rumba Tropical **Orquesta Love**
7. Así Vivo Yo **Gus Colón**
8. Va A Llover **La Protesta**
9. No Se Compara **Ismael Quintana**
10. La Revolución De Cristo **Primitivo Santos**
11. Tu Guarachita **Orquesta Fascinación**
12. Tiempos De Ayer **Orquesta Fascinación**
13. Olvídale **Los Rodríguez**
14. Me Das Libertad **Wichy Camacho**
15. Controversia Caribeña **Descarga Boricua**
16. Cuidadito **Mario Ortiz**
17. Son Sonero **Ismael Rivera**
18. El Mesías **Ismael Rivera**
19. Borinqueneando **Ismael Rivera**
20. Muralla De Bronce **Ismael Rivera, Jr.**
21. Pica Pica **Cortijo Y Su Combo**
22. Guariquitén **Cortijo Y Su Combo**
23. Festival De La Caña **Mario Ortiz**
24. Me Gustas **Gilberto Santarosa**
25. Me Liberé De Tí **Alex D' Castro**
26. Antón Bravura **Juan Manuel Lebrón**
27. Prefiero Rumbero **Puerto Rico All Stars**
28. Lírica Borinqueña **Gran Combo**
29. Potro Amarrao **Gran Combo**
30. Aguita Pura **Cano Estremera**
31. De Qué Vale **Cano Estremera**
32. El Llanto De Las Flores **Luigui Texidor**
33. Borinquen **Sonora Ponceña**
34. Madrugando **Sonora Ponceña**
35. A Cali **Sonora Ponceña**



36. Catalina La O **Pete "Conde" Rodríguez**
37. Areito Va A Sonar **Pete "Conde" Rodríguez**
38. Bongó Antillano **Pete "Conde" Rodríguez**
39. La Raza Latina **Orquesta Harlow**
40. Palo De Son **Madera Fina**
41. Al Ver Sus Campos **Ray Barreto**
42. Todo Se Va A Poder **Ray Barreto**
43. Amor De Lujo **Ray Barreto**
44. No Te Quedes Sin Bailar **Ray Barreto**
45. Lluvia De Tu Cielo **Willie Colón Y Rubén Blades**
46. Ojos **Willie Colón Y Rubén Blades**
47. Dicen Antón **Celia Cruz Y Willie Colón**
48. Calumbo **La Lupe Y Tito Puente**
49. Flores De Mi Labor **José Alberto (El Canario)**
50. Sabor Criollo **Tito Rodríguez, Jr.**
51. Nuestra Musica **Orquesta Canayón**
52. Colonizaciones **Orquesta La Masacre**
53. Tambores De Guerra **Orquesta La Masacre**
54. Soy Candela **Rafael De Jesús**
55. Claro Y Musical **Lucecita Benítez**
56. Guarimbo **Madera Fina Y Carlos Santos**
57. Te Pareces A Judas **Ismael Miranda Y Fania All Stars**
58. Escarcha **Héctor Lavoe**
59. Contrato Barato **Héctor Lavoe Y Van Lester**
60. Busca El Ritmo **Willie Rosario**
61. Caramelito Del Campo **Willie Rosario**
62. Pedro Dirindón **Pedro Conga**
63. El Son De Mi Tierra **Nelson Pinedo Y Tommy Olivencia**
64. Cosas Nativas **Tommy Olivencia Y Frankie Ruiz**
65. Fantasía De Un Carpintero **Tommy Olivencia Y Frankie Ruiz**
66. Para Ti Bailador **Orquesta Mulenze**
67. Buscando Aventuras **Orquesta Mulenze Y Pedro Brull**
68. Tranquilizante Musical **Lalo Rodríguez**
69. Amor De Poco Tiempo **Tony Vega**
70. A Romper Cadenas **Tito Nieves**
71. El Hombre Increible **Marvin Santiago**
72. Niña Mala **Bobby Valentín**
73. Son Treinta Y Cinco **Bobby Valentín**
74. Estás Equivocado **Roberto Roena**
75. Perdiendo Se Va Ganando **Tito Allen**
76. Herencia Y Tradición **Tempo 74**
77. Guarachimbe **Perico Ortiz**
78. Te Llamaría Maldita **Rafael De Jesús**
79. Ese Amor Sin Amor **Rafael De Jesús**

80. Fiesta De Cantores **La Puertorriqueña Y Don Perigñón**
81. Al Cantío De Un Gallo **Dimensión Latina**
82. Que Importa El Color **Orquesta Borinquen**
83. Glosas Campesinas **The Family All Stars**
84. Son Nuevayorkino **Johnny Ortiz Y Taiborí**
85. Flores De Angustia **Taiborí**
86. Doce Caravanas **Junior González**
87. La Rumba Que Te Cura **Tito Gómez Y La Máquina De Los 80**
88. Me Curo Con Rumba **Descarga Boricua**
89. Cariño Brujo **Pedro Arroyo**
90. Declaración Musical **La Selecta**
91. El Bodeguero **Sonora Borinquen**
92. Somos Música **Somos Música**
93. Majestad Antillana **Típica 73**
94. La Línea **Guillo Rivera**
95. Flor De Farra **Pete "Conde" Rodríguez**
96. Sabor De Rumba **Johnny Ortiz Y Vanguardia**
97. Las Cosas Son Como Son **José Nogueras**
98. Soneros De Bailadores **Orq Rmm**
99. Sonero Del Pueblo **Orlando Watusi**
100. Vuelve El Rumbero **Frankie Dante**



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