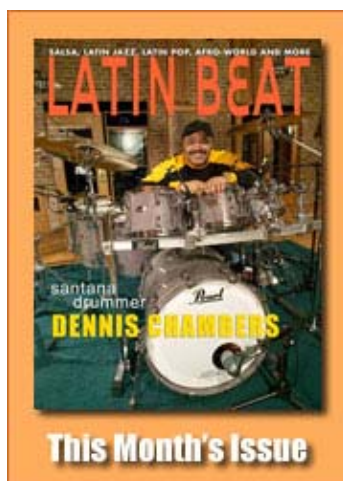




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NOVEMBER 2010 ISSUE

Reviews ⊕⊕⊕

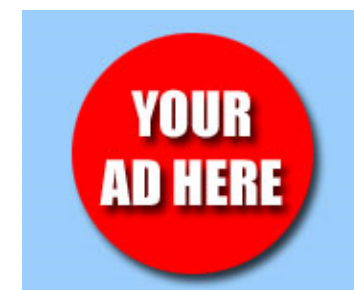
PICK OF THE MONTH

SPANISH HARLEM ORCHESTRA

Viva La Tradición

(Concord Picante)

Blazing horns and mesmerizing percussions — displayed in the Latin big band tradition — serve to introduce the opening track, *La Salsa Dura*, of this latest offering from Spanish Harlem Orchestra (SHO) entitled *Viva La Tradición* (Long Live the Tradition). This orchestra is led by the virtuoso Grammy-recipient pianist/arranger /composer Oscar Hernández, one of the leading exponents of today's international salsa movement. Featuring an all-star cast of alumnae of New York City's "cuchifrito circuit," SHO is fronted by vocalists Ray de la Paz, Marco Bermúdez and Carlos Cascante, and propelled by one of the most tasteful rhythm sections in the business, in conjunction with a monstrous horn section showcasing the talents of Mitch Frohman (sax/flute), Jimmy Bosch and Daniel Reagan (trombones), John Walsh and Héctor Colón (trumpets). A repertoire of mostly original scores penned by Hernández and other members of SHO will keep its fans dancing and grooving to some of the best salsa today. Additional musicians in the recording include Máximo Rodríguez (bass) and Raúl Agraz (trumpet). Not to mention a cameo by Cuban vocalist Issac Delgado on the selection *El Negro Tiene Tumbao*. Standout tracks include the opener (*La Salsa Dura*), *La Fiesta Empezó*, *Linda*, and *Rumba Urbana*. —Rudy Mangual



Nayibe
Borinquen
[Windows Media Quicktime](#)

Luis González
Spain

REVIEWS

[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Rolando Sanchez
Vamonos De Fiesta

[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Steve Pouchie
Watch Ur Wallet

[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

3D Ritmo de Vida
Que Siga La Rumba

[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Somos Son
Bilongo

[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

The Estrada Brothers
Mr. Ray

[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Manny Silvera
Bassed in America

[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Bobby Matos
Cuchy Frito Man

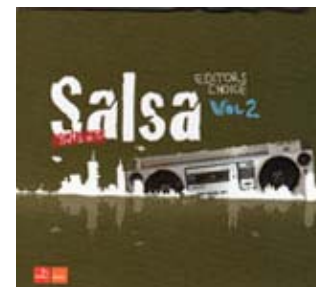
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Chembo Corniel
Buena Gente

[Windows Media](#)

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Salsa Editors Choice Vol. 2
(Latin Musik)

This follow-up to *Salsa Editors Choice Vol. 1* (released about 14 months ago) by Switzerland's Dani Niedermann Pollastro is another collection of salsa dance tracks compiled in a one-hour DJ-set format designed to ignite any dance floor or salsa party. This anthology of a dozen salsa tracks extracted from all corners of the world showcases the sounds of Saxomanía (Venezuela), Grupo Latin Vibe (New York City), Bob Desena (Los Angeles), Alex Wilson (Switzerland), Deldongo (France), La Tremenda (Sweden), Contrabando (Belgium/Cuba), Lex Eazy & The Mambo Club (Germany), Samuray Kuba (Cuba/Switzerland) and Oriente (San Francisco), among others. Key tracks include the selections *Breakaway* (by Lex Eazy & The Mambo Club), *María* (by Contrabando), *El Cuarto de Tula* (by Dave Santiago & Latin Affair), and *Pa' Los Bravos* (by Grupo Latin Vibe). —*Rudy Mangual*



VICTORIA SANABRIA
Criollo Con Salsa
(Echa Compay Records)

A native of Guayama, Puerto Rico, with a resumé that includes dozens of recordings, the veteran folkloric singer/composer Victoria Sanabria brings us the first salsa recording of her career, *Criollo Con Salsa*. Under the musical direction of Luis "Tito" Olivera and featuring arrangements provided by Willie Sotero, Elvincito Torres and Luis Olivera, Sanabria's production easily blends her Puerto Rican jíbaro savvy with salsa rhythms, resulting in excellent danceable interpretations. She is accompanied by top-caliber musicians such as Willie Sotero (piano), Pedrito Pérez (bass), Luis "Perico" Ortiz (trumpet), Rafi Torres, Toñito Vázquez and Víctor Vázquez (trombones), Prodigio Claudio (tres guitar), Manny Trinidad (cuatro guitar), and percussionists Tito de Gracia and Georgie Padilla. Victoria's vocals shine in the selections *Criollo Con Salsa*, *Jíbara Natural*, *No Lavo No Plancho Ni Cocino*, and *No Te Quiero* (featuring Victoria in a duet with special guest Ivy Queen). —*Rudy Mangual*



BENITO GONZÁLEZ
Circles
(furthermore)

Venezuela es el país de origen de tres talentosos pianistas de jazz que radican actualmente en los Estados Unidos: Otmaro Ruíz,



Quicktime**Maña**

Tranquilito

[Windows Media](#)[Quicktime](#)**Santiago Ceron**

Besos de Hada

[Windows Media](#)[Quicktime](#)**Johnny Polanco y Su****Conjunto Amistad**

El Gusto de Mi Salsa

[Windows Media](#)[Quicktime](#)**Siempre Salsa All Stars**

Salsa Para Siempre

[Windows Media](#)[Quicktime](#)

Silvano Monasterio y Benito González. Este último nos presenta, a la edad de 35 años, su segundo disco en solitario, con el acompañamiento de varios distinguidos jazzistas de la Gran Manzana — Christian McBride (bajo), Jeff "Tain" Watts (batería) y los saxofonistas Ron Blake, Myron Walden y Azar Lawrence. El repertorio consiste de ocho temas originales y una pieza de McCoy Tyner titulada *Blues On the Corner*. Lo cual resulta apropiado, considerando la influencia evidente de Tyner — junto a Chick Corea, Bud Powell, etc. — en la formación pianística del protagonista maracucho, quien ofrece la siguiente declaración: "La gente habla sobre cómo McCoy africanizó el piano, convirtiéndolo en un instrumento de percusión y me siento muy cómodo tocando en ese estilo. Lo siento muy natural". Por otra parte, entre sus propias composiciones, González incluye tributos a Elvin Jones (*Elvin's Sight*) y a Kenny Kirkland (*Faces*). En general, esta grabación evoca el sonido del "jazz clásico" de los años 60, considerados por González como "una época muy exquisita del jazz que pienso que está siendo pasada por alto". —*Luis Tamargo*

**BOSSA BRASIL & MAURICIO DE SOUZA GROUP****Here. There...****(Pulsa Music)**

Drummer/bandleader Mauricio De Souza (a native of Brasília, Brazil) brings us his latest recording, featuring music from both of his bands: Mauricio De Souza Group (playing mostly a variety of jazz compositions, ranging from Miles to Metheny) and Bossa Brazil (performing some of the most sophisticated Brazilian music scores, from Jobim to Nascimento). The instrumentation of the selections vary from trio to sextet formats enriched with the percussive savvy of De Souza, in the good company of Mike Stern (guitar), Andrew Beals (alto sax), Gregory Rivkin (trumpet), Carl Viggiani and Noah Haidu (piano), Jerry Weir (vibes), and Morrie Loudon (bass). The recording contains an original score by De Souza (the title track *Here There...*) plus ten brilliantly arranged jazz and Brazilian standards. My favorite tunes are hereby identified as Milton Nascimento's *Vera Cruz*, Edu Lobo's *Casa Forte* and the original title track. —*Rudy Mangual*

**YEAHWON SHIN****Yeahwon****(artist Share)**

Oriunda de Corea del Sur y radicada en Nueva York desde el 2005, la expresiva cantante y arreglista Yeahwon Shin ha efocado eficazmente su proyección artística en el terreno del jazz brasileño, tal como se puede apreciar al escuchar los arreglos exquisitos y las vocalizaciones primorosas que despliega a través de su epónimo debut estadounidense, el cual consiste mayormente de



icónicos estándares extraídos del cancionero brasileño. Shin cuenta con el respaldo de un montón de polifacéticos participantes de diversas nacionalidades, incluyendo al guitarrista Sun Chung (que también figura como productor ejecutivo y elabora los arreglos de la sección de metales empleada en varias selecciones) y al influyente multiinstrumentista Egberto Gismonti, quien aporta la melódica composición *Memoria e Fado*. Todas las composiciones del disco son vocalizadas, como Dios manda, en el lenguaje portugués, con la excepción de *Sae Ya Sae Ya* (vieja tonada folklórica coreana que llegó a convertirse en himno de resistencia a la ocupación japonesa) y el palaciego tema de Gismonti titulado *Palhaço*, adaptado ahora libertariamente por la cantante al idioma de su península natal. Esta tendencia transcultural se pone de relieve también en el motivo principal (fundamentado en el utari, tradicional ritmo coreano) del arreglo aplicado por Shin a *Aquarela do Brasil*, el venerable "clásico" de Ari Barreto que se engalana en esta ocasión con la presencia de *Maracatu NY* (piquete de percusión comandado por Scott Kettner en la Babel de Hierro). Todo lo cual hace constar, una vez más, la cualidad inagotable y universal del género jazzístico. —Luis Tamargo



TOMÁS MARTÍN LÓPEZ

On the Beat Path

(Bongotoms Music)

New York City-based percussionist Tomás Martín López brings us his self-produced debut as leader, thus making his own contribution to the Latin jazz scene. A veteran percussionist who has worked with top-bill names such as Lalo Rodríguez, Louie Ramírez, Tito Allen, Mark Egan, Charo, Oscar Hernández, and Billy Cobham (just to name a few), López recently finished a successful world tour with the legendary Grammy-nominated New Swing Sextet. For this new production, López called on the talents of pianist/composer Bill O'Connell, who added his unique flavor and savvy to the charts, while contributing three of his own scores. Multi-instrumentalist Matt Finley (trumpet, flugel horn, soprano sax) contributed eight originals to the production and is also credited for the arrangements, along with O'Connell. López plays in an admirable manner all the Latin percussion instruments throughout this recording, additionally backed by Rubén Rodríguez (bass), Joel Rosenblatt and Jimmy Branly (drums), Vito Speranza (trumpet), Bill McBirnie (flute), and Iván Renta (sax). Highlighting this recording are the selections *On the Beat Path*, *Blue Salsa* and *Images of Rio*. —Rudy Mangual



PRODUCT REVIEW

By Rudy Mangual



LPA625-SNB Aspire Santana Abraxas Wood Conga Set, 10" & 11"
LPA622-SNB Aspire Santana Abraxas Wood Tumbadora 12"
LPA602-SNB Aspire Santana Abraxas Wood Bongos 6 ¾" & 8"

Showcasing LP Aspire percussion instruments LP presents the new line of Santana Abraxas Angel Congas and Bongos. Celebrating a long-standing relationship with Latin/rock superstar Carlos Santana, LP created the Aspire model congas and bongos that feature the artwork from Santana's 1970 breakthrough album Abraxas (originally from the 1961 painting "Annunciation" by Mati Klarwein).

The LP Aspire Santana Abraxas Angel Conga Drum Set (LPA625-SNB) includes a 10" quinto drum and an 11" conga drum (both featuring 28" tall Siam Oak shells and natural rawhide heads). The heads are secured to the drums with EZ Curve rims for comfortable playability. Light-but-strong chrome hardware completes the construction of the drums. A high-gloss black enamel background covers the drums, enhancing the colorful Abraxas Angel designs. Completing the set is a double conga stand featuring the new patented LP Aspire Slide Mounts, which make mounting and dismantling the drums to the stand very easy and secure. The drums performed commendably on the stands, producing deep tones as well as great sound projection. This beautiful affordable set of conga drums is ideal for students, percussion

aficionados and budget-conscious professionals.

Suggested retail price is \$599.00 US.

The LP Aspire Santana Abraxas Wood Tumbadora (LPA622-SNB) is a 12" head bass drum also 28" tall and solidly constructed from Siam Oak. Looking more like its LP cousins Matador models (at about half the cost) this drum sounds and handles great while looking like a million bucks. We played it together with its siblings the LP Aspire Santana Abraxas Conga Set, making for an excellent sounding trio of conga drums. In a setup with three LP Accent wood congas, it held its own, projecting and sounding superb within several different positions of the four conga drum setup. This tumbadora drum is an affordable and worthy candidate to add to any percussion setup.

Suggested retail price is \$269.00 US.

The LP Aspire Santana Abraxas Wood Bongos (LPA602-SNB) include a 6 ¾" shell (hembra) drum attached to an 8" shell (macho) drum, constructed of Siam Oak and featuring chrome hardware. EZ Curve rims secure the rawhide heads to the shells as well as add pain-free playability to the player. The bongos are finished in the dramatic Santana Abraxas Angel design, making them one special unique percussion instrument. Weighing less than ten pounds, this bongo is comfortable to play in the traditional sitting position. Both shells emit a fine sound, producing decent tones and projecting well. However, in the end, the best feature of this bongo is its value price.

Suggested retail price is \$185.00 US.

StreetParty Compact by gear4

StreetParty Compact is a portable speaker dock system for iPods and iPhones, which is extra small for maximum portability. Weighing under a pound with dimensions of 50mm x 179mm x 62mm, the StreetParty Compact allows you to turn your iPod and iPhones into a portable sound system audible for everyone to enjoy. The unit comes with a power supply for AC power and also operates with 4 AAA batteries. Also included are four different dock adapters for iPod and iPhone connections, as well as an auxiliary line-in port for use with other music players. While the



system is small and compact, it delivers commendable hi-fidelity sound and volume. Its slick contemporary black design makes it a fine addition to any room, office or outdoor setting where music is needed.

Suggested retail price is \$49.00 US.

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