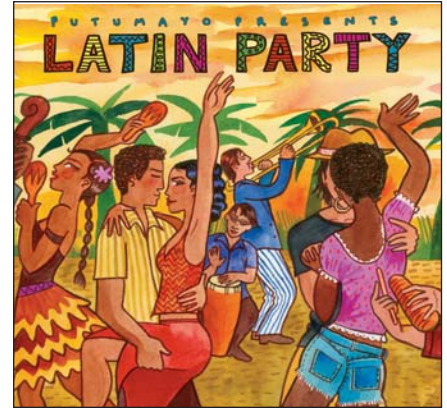


Latin Party

(PUT 300 Liner Notes)

There's nothing like the infectious grooves of Latin music to get the dance floors humming. Over the years, Putumayo has relied on the uplifting and irresistible sounds of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Colombia and beyond to create many of our collections.

Latin Party is probably our most eclectic Latin collection yet. Featuring soulful boogaloo and funk, Colombian *cumbia* and Cuban *son*, even Jamaican ska and dancehall, these songs represent the wide range of styles and influences that have permeated Latin American music. Many contemporary Latin groups recognize that creating a new sound for the future doesn't mean completely abandoning the styles of the past. Progressive artists like Brooklyn Funk Essentials, Yerba Buena, The Quantic Soul Orchestra and others pay tribute to the rich history of Latin music while simultaneously developing exciting new musical expressions. It doesn't matter if you are a follower of the old school or passionate about the cutting edge, all of these tracks have enticing rhythms, inspired melodies and funky grooves. It's Latin party time!



1. Brooklyn Funk Essentials

Big Apple Boogaloo (The Sir George Radio Edit)

Brooklyn Funk Essentials was born out of New York's buzzing hip-hop-jazz and slam poetry scenes of the early 1990s. Originally conceived by producers Arthur Baker and Lati Kronlund as a series of studio jam sessions, the group soon turned into a 12-piece live outfit consisting of some of the finest young musicians, singers, rappers, dub poets and DJs the Big Apple had to offer. The band's debut album, *Cool and Steady and Easy*, was released in 1994 and featured prominent guests like Maceo Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. After numerous world tours and three acclaimed albums, the band went on a hiatus in 2001, but returned to the studio in 2007 to produce their latest album *Watcha Playin'*.

This track appeared on BFE's first record and it still sounds fresh and modern. Remixed by Sir George (a.k.a. Sergio George), one of the top producers in New York's Latin scene, the song pays tribute to the boogaloo blend of Latin rhythms and soul grooves that was developed in the 1960s by Latinos in Manhattan and the Bronx.

2. Raul Paz

Buena Suerte

artist: rah-OOL pahs song: bweh-nah SWAIR-tay

Born in Pinar Del Rio, the westernmost province of Cuba, Raul Paz has been living in Paris since 1997. He is one of the hottest Latin artists in Europe and regularly performs alongside Oscar D'Leon, Rubén Blades and other tropical music stars. Paz's successful 1998 debut album established him as a leading contemporary Cuban songwriter and performer and he has released six well-received albums since. His seamless blend of deep Cuban grooves with electronic music and funk, combined with his suave stage presence have earned him a growing following.

On "Buena Suerte" (Good Luck), a bouncy *cumbia* with a Cuban twist, Paz sings, "I have to get over the bad luck plaguing my life / The fears, the lies. I'm telling you, I'll do it / I'm going to kill it / The bad luck that is always behind me / And the bad nights that don't do me any good / Ay! Look, I promise you I'm going to be done with all of this / Because tomorrow things are going to be different.

3. Luis Mangual

Son de Nueva York

artist: loo-EES mahn-GWAHL song: sohn day nweh-vah york

As children growing up in Spanish Harlem in the 1950s, Luis Mangual and his brother José learned the intricacies of Afro-Cuban rhythms from their master percussionist father. As he grew, Luis went from playing at *rumba* jam sessions in the streets of El Barrio to becoming one of the most in-demand sidemen in the thriving New York salsa scene of the 1960s. During the heyday of salsa, he played alongside legends such as Ray Barretto, Johnny Pacheco, Celia Cruz and many others. While he stopped performing regularly in the 1980s to pursue a career working for the City of New York, he has remained musically active and joined forces with his brother in 2007 to record the salsa album *Abril en Paris*.

"This is the sound (*son*) of New York," sings José Mangual Jr., "And I sing it with emotion / My son has rhythm, melody and a lot of soul / The *son* is the most sublime, it comes straight from the heart / Even though the *son* is Cuban, we play it in New York."

4. Yerba Buena

Electric Boogaloo

artist: YER-bah BWEH-nah

The New York-based band Yerba Buena is the brainchild of Andres Levin, a critically-acclaimed producer of Venezuelan origin who is the mastermind behind a number of cutting-edge Latin and world music albums. Levin has worked with everyone from David Byrne and Tina Turner to Marisa Monte and Carlinhos Brown. For Yerba Buena, Levin assembled a line-up of some of the most talented musicians in New York to create a high-energy party band that incorporates Latin grooves with funk, hip-hop and Afrobeat.

"Electric Boogaloo" is from Yerba Buena's 2003 release *President Alien*. It features Cuban singer Xiomara Laugart on lead vocals. Guests on the track include trumpeter Roy Hargrove with a silky trumpet solo, salsa bass legend Andy Gonzales, trumpeter Brian Lynch, Cuban sax player Yosvany Terry and Descemer Bueno on backing vocals. Laugart calls out for her partner to dance and challenges him to have a better time than her.

5. Mas Bajo

Rico Montuno

artist: mahs BAH-hoh song: REE-koh mon-TOO-noh

Mas Bajo was founded in Nantes, France in 1999 by a collective of French, Cuban, Mexican and Chilean musicians. They started by playing covers of salsa standards, but when Cuban singer Raul Henriquez joined the group in 2007, they began writing their own material. Their first album, *Pancho Illegal*, was released in June 2009 and was well-received by the media in Europe and the US. After having performed over 500 concerts around the world, Mas Bajo has developed a reputation for putting on energizing shows. Their music hews close to Afro-Cuban traditions while bringing in modern flavors such as funk and hip-hop.

Composed by Henriquez and the group's timbale player, Maxime Bellanger, "Rico Montuno" is a smooth and danceable *son montuno* with a contemporary vibe. The lyrics pay tribute to the pioneers of Cuban *son* and their magical musical legacy.

6. Cecilia Noël

Asi Se Compone Un Son

artist: seh-SEEL-yah no-EL song: ah-SEE say kom-PONE-AY oon son

Peruvian singer Cecilia Noël moved to Los Angeles in 1989 and her energizing gigs with her band The Wild Clams has become the stuff of local legend. With an explosive stage presence and a powerful blend of classic Afro-Cuban grooves with soul and hard-driving funk, Cecilia Noël and The Wild Clams have torn up stages across the LA area, including the House of Blues and Hollywood Bowl. "I call what I do 'hardcore salsa,'" asserts Noël, "because nowadays there is a lot of romantic salsa, but I'm more of a punk salsa singer. It's not lightweight; I'm the Nine Inch Nails of salsa." Noël is married to former Men At Work front man Colin Hays, with whom she also performs and records.

"Asi Se Compone Un Son" (That's How One Composes a *Son*) was written by Puerto Rican legend Ismael Miranda and the lyrics, according to Noël, "speak to mixing ingredients and cooking slowly because otherwise you'll spoil the recipe. You have to make it perfect so that the dancers who are not professionals can feel the groove."

7. Coffee Makers

Las Calles de Medellín

song: lahs kai-yayz day meh-day-YEEN

In recent years, Jamaican reggae and ska have developed an underground following in Colombia and there are now dozens of young Colombian reggae and ska bands across the country. Coffee Makers was formed in 1998 in Medellín, a city in the Aburrá Valley that is infamous as the home of former Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar and his Medellín cartel. One of the country's pioneering reggae bands, Coffee Makers has had many different members over the years, but the one constant is drummer and songwriter Andrés Arango.

The instrumental "Las Calles de Medellín" (The Streets of Medellín) is the opening track of their 2005 debut album *El Camino* and was one of the first songs the group ever performed together. With a strong ska vibe, the song segues into an Afro-Cuban 6/8 rhythm as the trombone and sax trade riffs leading into a blazing trumpet solo.

8. Fruko y Orquesta

Cumbia del Caribe

artist: FROO-koh ee or-keh-stah song: KOOM-bee-ah del kah-REE-bay

Ernesto "Fruko" Estrada began his musical career at the age of 15 when he joined the legendary *cumbia* group Los Corraleros de Majagual. Performing with Los Corraleros in 1968 gave Fruko his first opportunity to travel to New York and participate in the city's burgeoning salsa scene. Fruko and musical director Mario "Pachanga" Rincón started Fruko y Orquesta in 1970 in an effort to create a sound similar to New York's Fania All Stars. Since then, Fruko y Orquesta have retained a firm foothold in the upper echelons of the international salsa scene.

"Cumbia del Caribe" (*Cumbia* of the Caribbean) is an updated version of a classic *cumbia* by Edmundo Arias, one of Colombia's most important composers and bandleaders. "Dance to my *cumbia*," the singer exhorts on this mostly instrumental track.

9. A.B. Quintanilla III & Kumbia Kings featuring Ozomatli

Mi Gente

artist: Ay.Bee. keen-tah-NEE-yah & KOOM-bee-yah kings song: mee HEN-tay

The Kumbia Kings was formed in Corpus Christi, Texas by bassist A.B. Quintanilla, the brother of late Tejano music star Selena. Quintanilla was joined by Cruz Martínez, the keyboardist in Selena's band, and together they created an exciting, modern sound that fused Mexican-style *cumbia* with hip-hop, pop, R&B, reggae and dance music. Their debut album, 1999's *Amor, Familia y Respeto*, sold half a million copies and earned a Grammy nomination. While the band broke up in 2006, rumors of a potential reunion tour began surfacing in 2009.

"Mi Gente" is from Kumbia Kings' fourth studio album, 4, which was released in 2003 and featured a cavalcade of heavy-hitters in the Mexican music scene such as Juan Gabriel, El Gran Silencio and Aleks Syntek. Los Angeles-based Ozomatli add their trademark funky grooves to this catchy track. "If I came from far away to this land / It is because I listened to the promise / That here I would find a way / To have a better life."

10. The Quantic Soul Orchestra

Regi Bugalú

song: reh-gee boo-gah-LOO

The Quantic Soul Orchestra is the brainchild of British musician and DJ Will Holland, who has been influenced by hip-hop, soul, funk, house, broken beat, dub and jazz as well as African and Afro-Cuban music. A respected remixer and producer, Holland gave himself the name Quantic, a term used to describe a type of algebraic formula, when he was a student of mathematics. He has also been involved with the soul-funk-dance duo the Limp

Twins and Flowering Inferno, among other bands. Holland now lives much of the time in Colombia and his recent work reflects a deepening influence of Afro-Colombian music.

“Regi Bugalú” is an instrumental from The Quantic Soul Orchestra’s 2007 release *Tropidéllico* on the UK-based label Tru Thoughts. The track was recorded in Panama City and takes its name from Regi Boyce and Regi Johnson, who trade licks on trumpet and sax respectively.

11. Orquesta Lo Nuestro

Ni Tilingo Ni Titingo

artist: or-KEH-stah loh nweh-stroh song: nee tee-LEEN-goh nee tee-TEEN-goh

Based in Bogotá, Colombia, Orquesta Lo Nuestro has been tearing up the prolific salsa scene there since its formation in 2007. The band’s 13 members include respected singers Jairo Cifuentes and Édgar Sánchez. Their first album was produced with the help of Ricardo Rosales, a veteran of top bands Alquimia and Grupo Changó. The group has become well-known for its modern interpretations of the classic salsa sound.

“Ni Tilingo Ni Titingo” was the group’s first single and became an instant favorite on the dance floors of Colombia’s salsa clubs. This up-tempo rendition of a classic Cuban song translates loosely as “I don’t want any trouble / I’m the boss around here / I’m a singer / And that’s what I do for a living / You who go fighting around here / Listen to what I’m telling you / This story is over / Now I want you to understand / That I’m the boss around here.”

12. Ska Cubano

Yírí Yírí Bon (Dancehall Mix)

song: yee-ree yee-ree bohñ

Take the propulsive backbeat shuffle of Jamaican ska and blend it with soulful Afro-Cuban son, and the result is Ska Cubano. The band is the creation of London promoter Peter Scott, who came up with the idea of blending two of the Caribbean’s most influential music styles. He brought London ska artist Natty Bo to Santiago de Cuba, where they collaborated with local musicians to create the unique Ska Cubano sound. It was there that they discovered the band’s future lead singer, Juan Manuel Villy Carbonell, a.k.a. Beny Billy, a rough-and-tumble former boxer and crooner whose voice is a dead ringer for that of late Cuban legend Beny Moré.

Indeed, “Yírí Yírí Bon” was one of Moré’s standards, but it was carried into the 21st century in a creative way in the hands of Ska Cubano! “In Cuba people cut sugar cane / In Cuba they drink coffee / In Cuba they dance *bembe* [an Afro-Cuban religious ceremony] / They drink sugar cane juice / And behind the carnival band / They dance.”

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