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Posted on September 6, 2003

Bobby Hutcherson - Montara
Blue Note Records (BNLA 551 - 1975) Reissue - 2003

What befits a legendary recording most? In this case, a no-nonsense reissue that captures the spirit of the original recording.

Montara was Hutcherson's full-blown excursion into the world of Latin jazz (he is known primarily as a jazz artist). In addition, the departure was Hutcherson's unique way of celebrating his 10th anniversary as an artist with Blue Note records.

The sound is indicative of the times in which it was recorded (the 70's). However, the music is a forward thinking combination of hard-driving Latin grooves, hip-bass figures, soulful guitar licks, jazzy boogaloo and danceable tunes.

The repertoire demonstrates Hutcherson's surprisingly good taste in Latin music. For example, (Se Acabó) La Malanga (popularized by Eddie Palmieri); Yuyo, a Mambo/Jazz groove; Little Angel, a breezy tune made famous by Mongo Santamaría and Oye Como Va, Tito Puente's signature tune.

The band was the best of the best, an amazing combination of seasoned jazzmen and Latin heavyweights: Blue Mitchell (trumpet), Willie Bobo (mallets on "Love Song"), Larry Nash (electric piano), Harvey Mason (drums), Rudy Calzado (arranger, percussion), Fred Jackson (flute), Bobby Matos (bandleader, percussion), Ernie Watts (tenor sax) and Eddie Cano (piano) to name a few.

Regrettably, the recording in its entirety lasts a mere 38 minutes (give or take a few seconds).

That said, for those who are looking for more of the same, Hutcherson went on to record two additional Latin jazz recordings: Un Poco Loco (Koch records - 1979) and Ambos Mundos/Both Worlds (Landmark records - 1989).

By and large Ambos Mundos/Both Worlds (with guests Francisco Aguabella and Orestes Vilato) is considered Hutcherson's most genuine Latin jazz recording.



Bobby Hutcherson
Montara
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It's interesting to note that Hutcherson was not particularly fond of the term Latin jazz. He preferred to view his Latin flavored outings as an opportunity to "bridge cultural gaps."

Vibraphonist/Marimba player, Bobby Hutcherson is considered one of the pioneers of the vibraphone (and marimba). He has recorded over 50 recordings as a sideman and leader.

Kudos to Producer Miles Perlich and Recording Engineer, Ron Mc Master for a job well done.

Thomas Peña
Co-Editor
8/17/03

Tracks: (click on titles to listen)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Camel Rise | 5. Little Angel |
| 2. Montara | 6. Yuyo |
| 3. (Se Acabó) La Malanga | 7. Oye Como Va |
| 4. Love Song | |



Credits:

Bobby Hutcherson (vibraphone, marimba); Plas Johnson (soprano saxophone, flute); Ernie Watts (tenor saxophone, flute); Oscar Brashear, Blue Mitchell (trumpet); Eddie Cano (piano); Larry Nash (electric piano); Dennis Budimir (guitar); Chuck Domanico, Dave Troncoso (bass); Harvey Mason (drums); Ralph McDonald, Bobby Matos, Victor Pantoja, Johnny Palomo, Rudy Calzado (percussion).

Recorded at the Record Plant, Los Angeles, California on August 12 & 14, 1975. Originally released on Blue Note BNLA (551). Digitally remastered using 24-Bit technology.

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