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Bobby Sanabria - ¡Quarteto Aché!

On their debut release, Quarteto Aché tips its hat to several of the pioneers of Bebop and jazz. The foursome concentrates on expanding the vocabulary of the traditional rhythm section in unique fashion. According to leader, drummer, educator and composer, Bobby Sanabria, "We're coming into a new musical age. An age where there are no boundaries for the jazz musician with a 'world vision'."

Posted on December 2, 2002



Produced by Bobby Sanabria
Khaeon World Music
NYC - 2002

The session opens and closes with two tunes dedicated to trumpet master, Dizzy Gillespie. (Shaw 'Nuff and Bebop). Gillespie is one of the founding father of Bebop (which broke the barriers of melody and harmony) and Cubop (a fusion of Afro-Cuban rhythms and Bebop). The quartet reinvents Gillespie's approach with an energetic infusion of traditional and contemporary Afro-Caribbean rhythms, jazz and ingenious rhythmic changes.

The repertoire follows suit with tunes such as: Funky Mr. D - a fusion of Cuban bolero, samba cansao and the blues; Soleshia - which closes with a stirring salute to the Afro-Cuban deity, Changó; Child's Walk - whose odd rhythmic meters symbolize a child taking its first steps; El Trane - for Elvin Jones and John Coltrane; the Middle Eastern tinged Aum and Ebb & Flow - a clever blend of Bossa Nova and double time Samba.

Bobby Sanabria's world-class quartet is John Di Martino: piano; Jay Collins: tenor & soprano saxophone, pre-Columbian flute; Boris Kozlov: acoustic bass. Sanabria and Di Martino contribute a total of three original compositions (Child's Walk, Bebop and Aum).

Sanabria draws his inspiration from an infinite variety of people, places and things: his Bronx Nuyorican roots, Arsenio Rodriguez, jazz oriented TV commercials, Charlie Parker, The Twilight Zone, Dizzy Gillespie, Doc Severinsen, Mario Bauzá, the Blues, Doo-Wop, Tito Puente, Jazz, Santana, Funk, Frank Zappa and Buddy Rich to name a few (pop quiz: see if you can find Sanabria's mini-tribute to Buddy Rich on this recording).

According to Sanabria, Quarteto Aché's debut was originally conceived for (the band) "Ascension" (they last recorded in 1993). However, the project was cancelled due to complications with the record company (Arabesque). Di Martino convinced Sanabria to record the quartet instead and (to their credit) Khaeon Records not only showed an interest in the project, but completed the post-production work in record time.

Sanabria can also be heard on a number of recent recordings: Hilary Noble's - Noble Savage, Larry Harlow's Latin Jazz Encounter Live at Birdland, David Gonzalez and The Poetic License Band, with his Afro-Cuban big band and Thunder Drums. When this writer inquired as to how Sanabria manages to keep such a hectic schedule he stated that his passion for his work is what keeps him (tirelessly) on the move.

Quarteto Aché offers up a distinctive repertoire with passion, technical proficiency, multi-

cultural vibes, high energy and soul. Think of it as a mini-history lesson (Latin Jazz 101) and a virtual tour of the contemporary Latin jazz landscape. Highly recommended.

Thomas Peña
Co-Editor
Latin Jazz Network
11/29/01

Co Editor's note: After writing this review I had the pleasure of catching Quarteto Aché live at the New York City's Blue Note (11/25). The band spiced up their repertoire and stretched out on tunes from their debut release. A highlight of the evening was Bobby's heartfelt rendition of a traditional Cuban Danzon dedicated to his aunt, who recently passed away. By the end of the evening Bobby had everyone in the room snapping their fingers to the beat, clapping to the rhythm of the clave and scatting in unison. Great show.

Tracks: (click on titles to listen)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Shaw 'Nuff | 6. Ebb & Flow |
| 2. Soleshia | 7. El Trane |
| 3. Funky Mr. D | 8. Aum |
| 4. Blue | 9. Be-bop |
| 5. Child's Walk | |



Credits:

Bobby Sanabria: musical director, drums, vox humana
John Di Martino: piano, vox humana
Jay Collins: tenor & soprano saxophones, flute, bansuri, pre-Colombian flute
Boris Kozlov: acoustic bass.

All arrangements by Bobby Sanabria. Recorded at Tedesco Studios, Paramus, NJ, by John Rosenberg, December 19 & 23, 2001.

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