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DAVE PIKE
Peligroso

Produced by Bobby Matos
Label: CUBOP - Ubiquity Records - 2000

Reviewed by Danilo Navas

There's something fascinating, enchanting, about vibraphones and marimbas. Their rootsy, percussive sounds, reminiscent of ancient cultures, remind us of our strong bonds to Mother Africa. Dave Pike, along with Milt Jackson, Lionel Hampton, Bobby Hutcherson, Cal Tjader, Tito Puente... is one of the masters of jazz vibes. He's certainly been around for a few decades, putting out memorable recordings over the years with the likes of Bill Evans, Chick Corea, Paul Bley, Tommy Flanagan, Herbie Hancock, Clark Terry, Herbie Mann and others. His famous exploration into Latin jazz, "Manhattan Latin" (Decca 1964), has become a sought after rarity for music collectors.



Now, we have the pleasure of welcoming Dave Pike's latest release. A delightful recording, "Peligroso" is a production of the great percussionist Bobby Matos. He put together an amazing ensemble that includes himself on timbales and percussion, Carl Saunders on trumpet, Michael Turre on flute and baritone sax... (see complete credits below).

Dave Pike's scatting and humming is the first thing that captures the listener's attention. It's so contagious and inspiring. For him, singing along is a natural extension of his playing, adding a spontaneous and improvisational touch to the music.

Two tracks from "Manhattan Latin" are recreated in "Peligroso" ("Montuno Orita", now retitled "Cayo Coco", and "Sandunga"). The rest of the songs are mostly Dave Pike's compositions. "Bronx Blue" and "Back to the Roots" were co-written with Bobby Matos. "Breakin' it in" is a Marty Sheller's piece, and "Tumbao pa' mi timbal" a smokin' cover of Tony Martinez's song from "Maferefun."

Dave Pike - vibraphone, marimba, percussion
Carl Saunders - trumpet
Michael Turre - flute, baritone saxophone
Rich Pulin - trombone
Bobby Matos - timbales, percussion
Edward Resto - bass
Jonathan Pintoff - bass
Theo Saunders - piano
Victor Cegarra - keyboards
Robertito Melendez - congas



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