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ROBERTO CARCASSES
Invitation

2000 - Velas Records

Produced by Rodolfo de Athayde

Reviewed by Danilo Navas

Roberto Carcassés is standing out as one of the youngest and important Cuban pianists of the modern Afro-Cuban jazz scene. After graduating in percussion from The Escuela Nacional de Arte in 1991, he took the piano as his main instrument. His professional experiences include touring with the "Grupo de Santiago Feli" (1992-1995) and with "Columna B" (1998-1999). He performed for three consecutive years at the Havana Jazz Festival ('95, '96 and '97); at the Barcelona jazz festival in '97, and at the Utah Jazz Festival in '98. His two years teaching engagement at the Stanford Jazz Workshop (1998-1999) made him well known in the Bay area.

A fine composer and arranger, Bobby Carcassés (son of the great Bobby Carcassés) authored several of the songs recorded on this CD. His rendition of **Timba Mabó-Llegó, llegó** is a recognition to Hilario Durán and "Changuito," two of the master musicians the island of Cuba has produced. **De la Habana a Nueva York**, an homage to the father of Afro-Cuban jazz Mario Bauzá, is also a tribute to all the great past and present creators of the genre, linking two of the most important geographical locations in musical history. **A Puerto Padre** pays tribute to the late Emiliano Salvador, in one of his most recognized compositions. **Velas Içadas** showcases the beautiful voice of Liliam, in a song by Brazilian giant Ivan Lins and Vitor Martins. **California en Clave** -reminiscent of Roberto's stay in the west coast- is one of my favorites, as well as **Monk's Mood**, a cubanized interpretation of this classic. **Descargassés** displays the improvisational skills of this talented young artist, in the same way he does on tracks 8 and 9, which are very intimate piano solo statements of his own inspiration.

Roberto Carcassés - piano, vocals on track 2,
background vocals on track 1

Jorge Pérez "Zagua" - bass

Alejandro Aparicio "El Pícaro" - congas

Mario Hernández "El Indio" - trumpet

Yazek Manzano - trumpet

César López - alto sax

Alfredo Thompson - tenor sax

Oliver Valdés - drums

Amado Dedeu - vocals on track 2

Liliam - vocals on track 4

Elmer Ferrer - guitar solo on track 4

Hilario Bell - drums, background vocals on track 7

Bobby Carcassés - background vocals and scats on track 7

Pancho Terry - chekeré on tracks 2, 5, 6, 7, güiro on track 3, vocals on 7



1. Llegó, llegó (Timba Mabó) [Listen](#)
2. De la Habana a Nueva York [Listen](#)
3. A Puerto Padre [Listen](#)
4. Velas Içadas
5. California en Clave [Listen](#)
6. Monk's Mood
7. Descargasses [Listen](#)
8. ... y llegó el invierno
9. Tonada para Robin

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