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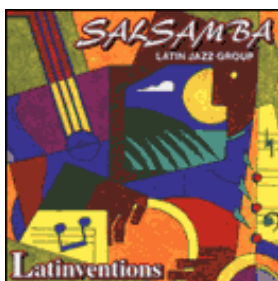
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**SALSAMBA**  
**Latinventions**

1999 Clave Records  
Produced by Eric Susoeff and Rich Loose

Reviewed by Danilo Navas

Salsamba is a Latin jazz quintet based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Founded by guitarist Eric Susoeff in 1984, Salsamba has released three CD's to date: **Mambo in Blue** (1988); **Mambo del Sol** (1994) and **Latinventions** (1999).

In this release, Salsamba recorded six original compositions written by Eric Susoeff and John Rampolla. 5 cover tunes round out the recording. Selected special guests help the quintet to achieve a balanced, well orchestrated sound. Salsamba proves to be a versatile ensemble, displaying an excellent command of the Latin jazz idiom. A hip, funky sound definitely involves the quintet's interpretations. We find in this recording a variety of rhythms being used in a lively way: mambo, bomba, cha cha cha, samba, bossa-nova, songo, guaguanco and even bolero. Maureen Budway shines on **Brasil** and **Manha de Carnaval**, her voice is so natural and melodious. The last track **The Harbor** is a songo-guaguanco which pays tribute to the NYC's East Harlem music institution.

Salsamba is:

- Eric Susoeff** - guitar, güiro
- Rich Loose** - six string bass
- George Jones** - congas, djembe
- John Rampolla** - drumset, bongos, timbales, percussion
- Eric DeFade** - saxophones, flute

Special Guests:

- Maureen Budway** - vocal on tracks 3, 8
- Jay Ashby** - trombone on tracks 1, 3, 4.
- Brazilian percussion on track 10
- Max Leake** - piano on tracks 3, 10
- Mike Tomaro** - flute on track 3. Alto flute on track 10
- Louis Lowenstein** - cello on tracks 3, 10
- Steve Hawk** - flugelhorn on track 4



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