



Album Artwork by Michael V. Rios
Creator of Carlos Santana's SUPERNATURAL

AN EXUBERANT FUSION OF Latin Jazz Harmonies and Afro-Caribbean Dance Music, the New Album by San Francisco-based Cabanijazz Project adds an injection of vitality and coolness to contemporary tropical music. Titled

HELLASONIC, the nine-track session is the brainchild of

GRAMMY® AWARD WINNING PERCUSSIONIST JAVIER CABANILLAS
- his finest recording to date.



Photo by Ben Torres

Press Release

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Los Angeles
-Ernesto Lechner

Ernesto Lechner is a regular contributor to the Chicago Tribune and the Los Angeles Times. His writings on music have appeared in such publications as **Billboard**, **Interview**, **People** en español, **Rolling Stone**, and **Vibe**.

www.cabanijazzproject.com



Francisco Torres



Available on vinyl and across all digital platforms, **HELLASONIC** is informed by Cabanillas' progressive sensibility and combines funky dance songs with lush instrumentals. Anchored on the effortless interplay between the eight members that make up Cabanijazz Project, the record is also boosted by guest spots by luminaries such as trombonist **Francisco Torres** - musical director with **Poncho Sánchez**



Scott Martin

- **WAR** the band saxophonist **Scott Martin** and legendary Fania All Stars timbalero **Orestes Vilató**.



Orestes Vilató

"We recorded the entire album in my home studio just before the pandemic changed everything," reflects Cabanillas. "I was inspired by the kind of sophisticated harmonies you find in the classic jazz tunes of decades past. **Duke Ellington's 'In A Sentimental Mood'** is a great example. Even though the original is a slow song, the way it moves forward - its harmonic progression - inspired me when we arranged the dance friendly numbers for this session."

Lyricaly, some of the songs follow the tradition of songwriters like **Rubén Blades** or **Tite Curet Alonso**, telling stories of everyday people, their hopes and travails.

Anchored on a deliciously syncopated beat with echoes of Cuban timba, "**El Pintor Ciego**" talks about a blind painter. "The lyrics focus on someone who can see the true colors of the people around him," explains the bandleader. "We may be deceived in seeing the colors that they show us, but once in a while, there's someone who can see the truth for what it really is."

A subtle air of nostalgia permeates the gorgeous "**Calor de Horno**," paying tribute to Cabanillas' family.

"I wrote it in honor of my cousin, who passed away at age 42," he explains. "He had a passion for cooking and our families would always come together to try the delicacies he would prepare on his homemade oven. This song is also a tribute to anybody who interprets the heat from the kitchen as a representation of love.

People getting together to share good food and experiences - the colors, smells and textures of life."

Boasting a highly original clarinet solo and conceived as a moral fable for Cabanillas' own son, "**Pancho Pistola**" tells the story of two kids who grow up on different sides of the Mexico/U.S. border and yet end up meeting the same violent fate.

"The one who grows in Mexico gets involved in the world of narcotics out of necessity", he says. "His American counterpart has everything he needs but wants to belong in that world anyway. It's a supply and demand game, and both end up dying. The game doesn't change, only the players do."

Cabanillas' lyrics may be philosophical and profound, but his music remains festive throughout - ideal for the dancefloor and concert stages.

"I imagine this album as the perfect aural backdrop for a large party," he enthuses. "People getting together to eat and have fun - little kids dancing and playing while the older folks stand on the corner having a cigar and sharing tequila shots. From its inception in the recording studio, my music has always been fun, upbeat and hella danceable."

ERNESTO LECHNER--