

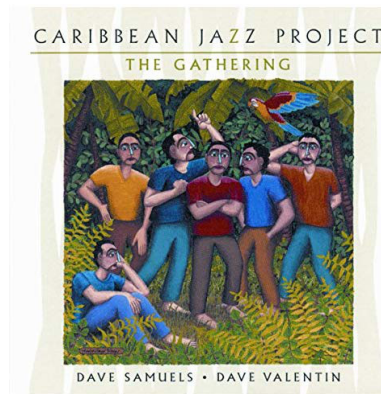
# Caribbean Jazz Project: The Gathering (2002)

By [Stanton Zeff](#)

Label: Concorde (CCD-2125-2)

## Track List

1. Rendezvous
2. Stolen Moments
3. See You In A Minute
4. The Gathering
5. Bemsha Swing
6. Libertad
7. El Guarachero Intrigozo
8. The Path
9. Masacoteano



## Introduction

The Caribbean Jazz Project (CJP) is the brain-child of co-founder and mallet instrument extraordinaire Dave Samuels. Spyro Gyra fans will recognize his name as a frequent contributor to that group over the years; in fact Jay Beckenstein (Spyro Gyro co-founder) produced Samuel's first solo CD, *Living Colors* (and it's also a good one). *The Gathering* is right smack in the middle of a few good CJP releases, with the added—and well deserved—distinction of winning the Grammy Award for “Best Latin Jazz Album” in 2003.

## Audio Quality

CJP releases are typically a Latin lovers' delight, and *The Gathering* is no exception. In addition to great percussion work, this group features fantastic soloists like Dave Samuels (vibes/marimba) and Dave Valentin (flute). Two of my favorite tracks, *Stolen Moments* and *The Gathering*, alternate between active half- and double-time grooves while inter-weaving smooth melodies with delightful solos. Flute lovers take note: Dave Valentin really shines on these tracks. If you get a chance to read his bio, he tells a funny story of how he originally came to play the flute. *The Path* features a nice Latin feel with a sweet melody. The only tracks I don't really like are *Rendezvous* and *Masacoteano*, the latter of which amounts to a percussion solo outro for the CD.

## Summary

The CJP still occasionally play live (usually with Dave Samuels head-lining), but they haven't released a CD in years and some releases are unfortunately hard to find.. If you like anything about this CD—the instrumentation, writing, performances—I recommend you check out some of Dave Samuels solo releases as well. Beyond that, there's a plethora of wonderful Dave Samuels solos on older Spyro Gyra releases; he was practically a founding member of that group.

## Audioholics Ratings Scale

- 5 – Outstanding:** Far exceeded expectations and previous experience – Very highly recommended
- 4 – Above Average:** As good or better than other products/performances – Highly recommended
- 3 – Average:** Met expectations, may include some moments of brilliance offset by small flaws – Recommended
- 2 – Below Average:** Did not meet expectations, some obvious flaws – Some may enjoy
- 1 – Very Poor:** Why did they even bother? Obvious flaws abound, monumental problems – Not Recommended

## Review Ratings for Caribbean Jazz Project: The Gathering

Metric	Rating
Audio Quality	5
Surround Implementation	N/A
Video Quality	N/A
Features (liner notes)	4
<b>Overall</b>	<b>5</b>

### Reference Equipment

Yamaha RX-A2050 AVR (Stereo Mode)  
Panasonic DMP-UB900 UHD Player  
Polk Monitor 10B Speakers (x2)