

Focusing The Spotlight: Hamlet & His Latin Jazz Experience

Our current Spotlight Artist, Hamlet & His Latin Jazz Experience, reminds us that Latin Jazz reaches far beyond the borders of the United States . . . in fact the music thrives in South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and more. Their collective experiences in Colombia, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, and the United States bring a diverse group of musical backgrounds into the group, opening the possibilities for musical experimentation. The group maintains a firm foundation in Afro-Cuban and Brazilian rhythms, but they obviously don't feel pressured by the weight of tradition. The inclusion of odd time signatures, complex arrangements, drastic dynamics, and intricate yet catchy themes bring a distinctly different sound to the group, setting them apart from their stateside counterparts. It's hard to classify the music as closely tied to European music traditions and it can't be classified as authentically Cuban, Brazilian, or Puerto Rican. It would be hard to even call it traditional Latin Jazz from a U.S. perspective. Instead the music on *Descarumbiando* resonates as something unique - a lively collection of music that remains connected to many sources without being defined by them. It's a great reminder that sometimes we simply need to look outside the standard sources to find inspiring Latin Jazz.



Take the time to check out Hamlet & His Latin Jazz Experience, there are plenty of opportunities to find them around the internet. You can find background information, news, videos, pictures, and tour dates on [the group's website](#). You can befriend the group, check out some tracks from *Descarumbiando*, see some pictures, and comment at [the group's MySpace page](#). Sit back and watch some videos on [the group's YouTube page](#) - there's some great rehearsal footage that you've got to check out! There's plenty of opportunities to get to know the group, so go ahead and do it - you'll be glad you did!

In the hopes of inspiring you to check the group out more extensively, I've included some background information about the different group members. Check out the varied backgrounds that these guys bring into the band, there's a lot of great musicality there! The information comes from [their webpage](#), where you can get even more musical goodies. I've included a video of the band performing the title track from *Descarumbiando* at the bottom of the post so that you can hear the group in action. Enjoy!

By : Chip Boaz (Latin Jazz Corner)