

## REVIEWS By Héctor Reséndez



■ **LIMI-T XXI: *Comenzaré Otra Historia*** (RMM-Merengazo, 82019) Producers: Ralph Mercado, Luisin Marti, Elvin Torres-Serrant. **TROPICAL-MERENGUE.**

The Puerto Rican merengue trio known as LIMI-T-XXI makes its debut on RMM's Merengazo label. Their recent album *Comenzaré Otra Historia* features nine hot dance numbers of which all were arranged by group member-producer, Elvin F. Torres-Serrant. The first single, "Que Te Pasa Comigo" hit sixth position on the charts in Puerto Rico. The album's progress westward is steadily coming along. Incorporating a unique slant to today's merengue, the contemporary merengue beat resounds throughout this fine album.

■ **ALVARO TORRES: *En Busca Del Amor*** (EMI Latin, 73904) Producer: Alvaro Torres. **POP-INTERNATIONAL.**

The latest album by the versatile composer-singer Alvaro Torres demonstrates why his popularity only continues to soar. Torres is a master in the pop ballad genre. His performances are legendary and well-attended. All ten selections will surely satisfy all of the singer's fans as well as make new ones. Torres' style is enchantingly eclectic. For example, take the tropic-tinted "Mujeres Solas," a humorous yet insightful look at single women. Compare it to the hip jazzy number, "Stress" and you'll see what we mean. While there's no actual Spanish translation for stress, Alvaro Torres won't need to be concerned. His music is totally enjoyable.



■ **JOSE LUIS RODRIGUEZ: *La Llamada Del Amor*** (Sony Latin, 81962) Producers: Bebu Silvetti, Estéfano & Mario Acevedo, Afo Verde & Paulo Durand, Rey Nerio. **POP-INTERNATIONAL.**

Classic pop balladeer Jose Luis Rodriguez responds to the call of true, yet sometimes elusive, love with his new album *La Llamada del Amor*. Produced by some of the most respected names in the business, each of the twelve selections are exquisite creations by some of the finest composers today including "Alquien Como Tu" written by Lilibeth Rodriguez, one of the artist's daughters. The Miami Symphonie Orchestra lends the perfect touch to this magnificent project. Rodriguez is one of those few artists known simply by an acronym. "El Puma" is a name easily recognized and loved throughout the Americas and the world.

■ **KING AFRICA: *El Africano*** (BMG, U.S. Latin, 35824-2) Producer: Tuti Gianakis. **POP-DANCE-RAP.**

Under the artistic direction of Tuti Gianakis and Ezequiel Deró, their album *El Africano* takes you on a non-stop, hard-driving and highly pulsating trip to the dance floor and then some. And it doesn't matter if it's in Europe or Stateside. King Africa's rhythm is definitely Latin ala Caribbean, yet it's unmistakably dance music for the masses of the world.

## PICK OF THE WEEK

■ **FRANKIE RUIZ: *Tranquilo*** (PolyGram Latino, 314527648) Producer: Vinny Urrutia. **TROPICAL-SALSA.**

Puerto Rican salsaero Frankie Ruiz' latest album *Tranquilo* on Rodven-PolyGram Latino is anything but calm. The title track is one incredible dance tune. Then again, so are the other eight selections. Throw away any arcane ideas of "salsa erotica." This album is "salsa cadente" (hot). And it's the salsa of today! Hard-core and hip salsaeros will attest to that fact. Ruiz does what he did with *La Solucion* and with *Tommy Olivencia*. He cooks! Look for more from one of the most vibrant Salsa vocalists around. PolyGram Latino recently extended Ruiz' contract for four additional albums. Ready for that chill pill?



## News From U.S. & Latin America

By Hector Resendez

### THE LATEST FROM RMM & VIDEO:

Typically, anything innovative within the Tropical-Salsa-Latin jazz scene must first cross the desk of **Debbie Mercado**, publicity director for **RMM Records & Video** in New York. And for good reason. Her dad, **Ralph Mercado**, president/CEO of the company, has seen it all in his 25 years-plus in the tropical music biz.

One of his latest creations is the forthcoming ballads album *Un Solo Beso* by one of the greatest living salsa singers of all time: **Cheo Feliciano** of Puerto Rico. And can this man sing a bolero!

Touted as an album that will make history, Feliciano is joined by master singer-songwriter **Armando Manzanero** of Mexico. RMM's bold statement is unequivocally correct! Feliciano is one of the great masters of ballad singing. His style, known as the "Sentimental Voice" stems from his days with another living legend **Joe Cuba**. Manzanero will be accompanying Feliciano on a duet version of the classic "Contigo Aprendi." In fact, Manzanero is featured on piano, as musical director, and composer of all of the selections on the forthcoming album.



Marc Anthony.

**MARC ANTHONY RECORDS NEW VIDEO:** The "Salsero of the New Millennium," **Marc Anthony** recently completed work on his latest music video called "Hasta Ayer." The song, originally performed by the Mexican group **Los Tericolas**, appears on Marc's second and latest album for RMM called *Todo A Su Tiempo*. The video was suitably filmed in historical sites throughout Mexico City under the direction of **Benny Corral**. **Adolfo Angel**, integral member of the aforementioned band, was on hand to help out his friend Marc.

**TONY VEGA WINS GOLD:** Just two weeks after its release, **Tony Vega's** latest self-titled album has gone Gold. The Puerto Rican singer last went Gold and Platinum in 1994 with his last album *Si Me Miras A Los Ojos*. "I can tell you that this is the most complete record that I've ever done in my career," says Vega, whose album features song-writers like **Mary Lauret**, **Omar Alfanno**, and the Spanish-singer-songwriter **Braulio**. As proof, Vega's first promotional single, "Esperaré A Que Te Decidas" (I'll Wait For You To Make A Decision), has been ranking high on single tropical chart lists throughout key Latin markets.

**JVC FESTIVAL FEATURES TROPIC-JAZZ ALL-STARS:** Recently the **Tropi-Jazz All-Stars** made their debut appearance at the **JVC Jazz Festival** at **Carnegie Hall** in New York City on June 29. **Marc Anthony** and his salsa band were showcased as well that evening.

The evening offered an all star-studded line-up including **Tito Puente** on percussion, pianist **Eddie Palmieri**, **Dave Valentin** on flute, pianist **Hilton Ruiz**, **Humberto Ramirez** on trumpet, **Charlie Sepulveda** on trumpet, **J.P. Torres** (trombone), **Johnny Almendra** (percussion), **John Benitez** (bass), **Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez** (congas), **Richie Flores** (percussion), **David Sanchez** (tenor sax), and **Jillian** (vocalist). The never-aging **Felipe Luciano** served as host emcee.



Tony Vega.