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HERB ALPERT

If there's any single key to Herb Alpert's new A&M album, "Under A Spanish Moon", it's his willingness to venture into new terrain. With last year's "Keep Your Eye On Me" Herb enjoyed renewed chart success worldwide with the title-track hit and the follow-up "Diamonds". Now he's proving to be adventurous in a new direction: "Under A Spanish Moon" reveals the artist exploring a place where orchestral music meets the heat of Latin jazz, and it's a rich discovery.

Whether Herb's trumpet puts a sultry spin on Sting's "Fragile" or caresses "My Song", Keith Jarrett's lovely original, this music has many colours. And as a centrepiece there is a stunning suite entitled "Under A Spanish Moon", one of the most inspired instrumentals Herb Alpert has ever recorded. The three movement suite was written especially for him by the noted Argentinian composer Jorge del Barrio.

The piece came about when Herb began developing arrangements of his existing music, for a unique series of US concert dates this summer with symphony orchestras. After hearing del Barrio's updated arrangement for "A Taste Of Honey" he asked him to write some original music; music that would evoke the 25 years that Herb's career has spanned. "Under A Spanish Moon" was the result.

From this collaboration came another as well, between Herb and Jorge's brother Eduardo del Barrio, a keyboardist and composer whose credits include the group Caldera. The outcome of their co-writing was the gutsy, percussive "Behind The Scenes" and the LP's delicate finale "Hidden Angel".