



HERB ALPERT

Throughout his wildly successful career, the music heart of Herb Alpert has palpitated to a distinctive Latin cadence. Whether leading his world-renowned band the Tijuana Brass on trumpet or producing ground-breaking albums by esteemed stars such as Sergio Mendes and Gato Barbieri, Alpert has demonstrated a natural affinity for melodies and tempos from Latin America.

Moreover, Alpert not only has record Latin American sounds, he also has utilized elements of its music to create innovative, Latino-rooted musical hybrids which bear his exclusive imprint.

With his latest Almo Sounds album "Passion Dance," Alpert once again returns to the Latino arena with another bold sonic blend that could best be described as "urban Latin groove." A mesmerizing aural amalgam that deftly merges sizzling Latino percussion, thick drum-and-bass grooves and Alpert's emotive improvisational interludes, "Passion Dance" boasts a previously unexplored soundscape that only Alpert could have discovered. Indeed, by its very nature the sounds heard on "Passion Dance" reflect the music scenes of many U.S. metro areas where a smorgasbord of rhythmic-intense genres are being mixed and matched by big-city musicians.

Co-produced by Alpert and Oskar Cartaya, "Passion Dance" features seven splendid compositions authored or co-authored by Alpert, including the beautifully melodious ballad "Until We Meet Again," the punchy, percussive "TKO" co-written by Jeff Lorber and "Baila Conmigo (Dance With Me,)" a steamy melange of Afro-Cuban rhythms that sport tasty vocal support from top salsa singers Jerry Medina, Domingo Quiñones and Johnny Rivera.

In addition, Alpert delivers a seductive take of Steve Wonder's classic "Creepin," featuring his wife, singer Lani Hall on focal sample, and he re-fashions his breezy 1982 hit "Route 101" as a throbbing safari ride anchored by a thunderous, syncopated beat.

Most of the standout cast of players supporting Alpert on "Passion Dance" are of Latino origin, including the well-known musicians such as Oskar Cartaya (bass). Who co-penned six tracks with Alpert, Humberto Ramirez (trumpet), Justo Almario (sax, flute), and Eddie del Barrio (keyboards), Marc Quiñones (timbales, bongo, percussion), Michito Sanchez (congas) and Walter Rodriguez (drums). Trumpeter, Harry Kim, who has recorded with Stevie Wonder and Marvin gay, contributes soulful lines on the album as well.