

**Rolando Matias & the
Afro-Rican Ensemble
“...afro-Latin-Bebop con sabor!...”**



" ...on the outside...looking out"

Rolando Matias & the Afro-Rican Ensemble, the latest: Grammy nominee Othello Molineaux and the Afro-Rican Ensemble have been touring together the last few years, the sound of the steel drums adds a new dimension to the sounds of the Ensemble! The Ensemble featuring Othello on steel drums is available for Festivals and Concerts. The Ensemble also has been doing work with Latin Grammy winner, Brian Lynch. Brian will be making a guest appearance on our upcoming CD.

The Charleston Gazette:

...if you closed your eyes for a few minutes, you might have thought you were in Havana in 1950.

Jonathan Rodgers

JazzTimes:

...solid musicianship, the right dash of sabor, and a refreshing absence of self-indulgence.

Marcela Breton

Latin Beat Magazine:

...What would this world be like without any percussion instruments? For some, life would be the same as always, but it wouldn't be the same for others who regard said instruments as the musical bloodline to the soul.

Latin jazz would be virtually non-existent without it, as documented in the music recently recorded by Sammy Figueroa, Chembo Corniel, Bobby Sanabria, Poncho Sanchez, Nils Fischer, Francisco Mela, Egji Castrillo, Bobby Matos, John Santos, Rolando Matias, Ignacio Berroa, Dafnis Prieto, Mayra Casales, David Mora, Marlon Simsn, Tito de Gracia, Paoli Mejmas, and countless more.

Nelson Rodriguez

The Other Paper:

Columbus

...anyway, people were having more fun on the other side by the river Sunday, where the Afro-Rican Ensemble had'em on their feet,...

Lee Brown

The Paper:

Grand Rapids

With its full spread of Latin Percussion, the band attracted record attendance, absolutely shaking the crowd with its hypnotizing Latin swing.

Julie Strand

The Latin Jazz Corner

Live Volume One:

Pelatula, CA

...traditional jazz musicians have spent decades building, destroying, and reconstructing the harmonic foundation of jazz. Latin Jazz musicians have emphasized rhythmic diversity, exploring the connections between jazz and a variety of Caribbean and South American traditions. Paths often cross through the stylistic embellishment of jazz standards with fixed harmonic forms, and diverge between avant-garde and Latin music. Rolando Matias and his Afro-Rican Ensemble bring all jazz roads together into an intriguing mixture of risk, experimentation and history on Live Volume One...

Chip Boat