

Hilario Duran
New Danzon
Alma Records
(2005)



2005 Juno Award for "Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year"



A fresh and vibrant Latin trio recording, blending milieus and motifs of the classic Cuban musical form, "Danzon" with sophisticated be-bop voicings, and superb technical musicianship by three of the international jazz scene's most luminous artists, Cuban-born pianist Hilario Duran, versatile bassist Roberto Occhipinti and Cuban percussionist Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez.

The "Danzon" form is most familiar as early Cuban dance music ... from the French term "Contre Danse" - a precursor to the Mambo. The roots of "Danzon" are, in fact, European ... by way of Haiti. The Contre Danse eventually became "Danzon" when it mixed with the Afro Cuban influences and eventually evolved into the familiar Mambo, as performed by 20th Century Cuban musicians such as the late bassist/composer Cachao and vocalist Ibrahim Ferrar. Contemporary Afro-Cuban music incorporates all of these diverse influences, from "Danzon" to Jazz, thereby creating a new style of music with deep ethno-centric roots, hence a "New Danzon".

Hilario Duran and his trio have taken this elemental musical form to a new level, combining it with the modern elements that are so integral to the experience of current jazz musicians. Included in the nine tracks of *New Danzon* are unique renditions of Charlie Parker's bop classic, "Segment"; the gorgeous Ivan Lins composition, "Velas" (Candles); original Hilario Duran tunes, "Yemaya Olodo" (based on an Afro Cuban religious chant to the Goddess of the Sea), as well as the title track, "New Danzon"; modern Los Angeles-based composer, arranger and band-leader Clare Fisher's "Gaviota"; two Classic Cuban compositions including Pare Cochero and El Manisero (the familiar "Peanut Vendor" made famous by Stan Kenton; the Venezuelan standard "Caballo Viejo" (known as "Bamboleo" by the Gipsy Kings) and a surprising and refreshing take on the well-trodden standard "All of Me" by Seymour Simon. *New Danzon* by The Hilario Duran Trio is a marvelous way to experience this fusion of cultures - both old and new - resulting in a magnificent artistic achievement, arrived at through the respectful tradition of classic songs, yet incorporating the most current elements of Modern jazz.

Track Listings :

1. El Manisero (Moises Simon) - 4:50
2. Segment (Charlie Parker) - 5:14
3. Yemaya Olodo (Hilario Duran) - 4:00 - Socan
4. Gaviota (Clare Fisher) - 4:38
5. All of Me (Seymour Simon) - 4:36
6. New Danzon (Hilario Duran) - 5:56 - Socan
7. Pare Cochero (Miguel Angel Banguela) - 3:46
8. Velas (Ivan Lins) - 4:40
9. Caballo Viejo (Ramon Diaz) - 6:34