

RAY MANTILLA REBIRTH

WITH IVAN RENTA | GUIDO GONZALEZ
JORGE CASTRO | MIKE FREEMAN | EDY MARTINEZ
REUBEN RODRIGUEZ | DIEGO LOPEZ



RAY MANTILLA percussion / leader
IVAN RENTA soprano & tenor saxophones
JORGE CASTRO baritone saxophone (tracks 1, 2 & 3) & flute (tracks 1, 3, 4, 6, 7)
GUIDO GONZALEZ trumpet and flugelhorn (track 4)
MIKE FREEMAN vibes (tracks 3, 4, 5, & 7)
EDY MARTINEZ piano & Fender Rhodes (tracks 5, 6, 7 & 9)
REUBEN RODRIGUEZ bass
DIEGO LOPEZ drums, bata (track 10)
OGUDARO DÍAZ & RAFAEL MONTEAGUDO bata (track 10)

- 1. MOONDANCE** (D. "PIRO" RODRIGUEZ) **6:12**
- 2. DAT DERE** (B. TIMMONS / O. BROWN JR.) (UPAM MUSIC CO.) BMI **5:21**
- 3. HIT THE ROAD JACK** (P. MAYFIELD) (TANGERINE MUSIC CORP.) BMI **5:25**
- 4. MIA** (E. MARTINEZ) (IRON GUNGLE) ASCAP **7:30**
- 5. PHILLY MAMBO** (T. PUENTE) (PEERMUSIC) BMI **5:31**
- 6. CUMBIA JAZZ FUSION EXPERIMENTAL** (E. MARTINEZ) (IRON GUNGLE) ASCAP **5:48**
- 7. YUYO** (B. HUTCHERSON) (EMI UNART CATALOG / NOSRE MUSIC) BMI **4:37**
- 8. PRECIOSA** (R. HERNANDEZ) (PEERMUSIC) BMI **5:48**
- 9. MARTINEZ** (E. MARTINEZ) (IRON GUNGLE) ASCAP **4:05**
- 10. REBIRTH BATA RUMBA EXPERIMENTAL** (R. MANTILLA) (SPACE STATION MUSIC) BMI **6:30**

ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY EDY MARTINEZ EXCEPT
"YUYO," ARRANGED BY MIKE FREEMAN

PRODUCED BY RAY MANTILLA | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: BARNEY FIELDS | ENGINEERED AND MIXED BY DAVID STOLLER | RECORDED
AT THE SAMURAI HOTEL, ASTORIA, NY ON DECEMBER 2, 2019 | MASTERING BY DAVID DARLINGTON, BASS HIT STUDIO, NEW YORK, NY
RAY MANTILLA PHOTO BY LUCA D'AGOSTINO | GRAPHIC DESIGN BY CHRISTOPHER DRUKKER

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SAVANT
RECORDS INC.

I have known Ray Mantilla since the 1970s, but it was not until 1990, when with Latin Jazz USA, we presented a super concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of Carnegie Hall, when for the first time I had the opportunity to work with this exceptional musician, Maestro Ray Mantilla.

At that concert, Ray shined as an Afro-Cuban Jazz superstar, in front of the all-star 26 musicians of the Latin Jazz USA Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Chico O'Farrill.

Since then I have followed Ray Mantilla's career, through his recordings and presentations. And through our friendship.

In 1992, Ray Mantilla was recognized with the prestigious, Latin Jazz USA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Recently Ray Mantilla came face to face with the complexities of life. A serious health problem, a confusing ride on an ambulance with his brother Kermit. A silent conversation with the All Powerful, beyond the universe.

In this new musical treasure, Ray proves to have a rebirth force, while finding the light loaded with musical blessings.

Ray Mantilla's exuberance always surprises us. His very personal way from making love to his dear congas, he manages to penetrate the most demanding senses of the genuine connoisseurs and lovers of the American Jazz and Afro-Cuban Jazz.

For this magnificent album, Ray has surrounded himself with an elite of superb musicians. He is joined together with this extraordinary group of talented friends; this ensemble demonstrates the strength and versatility of this big but loose band.

We immerse ourselves in the enchanting sound of Mike Freeman's vibraphone, the magic saxophone sounds of Ivan Renta and Jorge Castro, the contagious sway of Reuben Rodriguez' bass, the core sound of Diego Lopez' drums, or the ever-romantic touch of the trumpet and flugelhorn by Guido Gonzalez. All mixed to the keys of the piano and Fender Rhodes of Maestro Edy Martinez. Whether in the Bolero, the Son Montuno, the Cumbia or the real Cuban Mambo; together with Ray Mantilla, they manage to create a spectacular musical harmony.

The selection of these tunes you'll hear on this record is the outcome of intense hard work, constant searching for improvement, and the exercise of Ray's purposeful authority.

Mr. Barney Fields, executive producer of SAVANT RECORDS and HIGHNOTE, has managed to bring together this constellation of stars selected by the creativity of Ray Mantilla.

Among his conquered audiences and followers it is a must to note the difficulty to please Italians and other Europeans that year after year have acclaimed him as "Maestro Principal" because Ray has a very personal beat no one else has.

The essence of Mantilla's sound is almost impossible to put into words, but it is basically a blend of Afro-Cuban rhythms interwoven with American jazz and Latin American sounds, propelled by Ray's congas, bongos and other exotic percussive devices, rarely equaled by any other Afro-Cuban Jazz percussionist.

Ok, this is the moment to get serious, get ready and fasten your seat belt. Concentrate all your senses, you are about to have a very deep and touching musical experience. We are about to see the light at the end of the tunnel together with Ray Mantilla's REBIRTH.

NOTES BY IVÁN ACOSTA (Founder & Director Latin Jazz USA)

Ray Mantilla was very insistent on titling this recording Rebirth. After a long, arduous battle with cancer the disease seemed to go into remission and Ray was eager to get back into the studio to celebrate. Tragically his victory was only temporary and he eventually succumbed to the disease a few short months after completing the sessions for this release. Ray was able to finish the entire musical portion of the recording and approved all the final mixed and mastered tracks, a task which, though often difficult for him, brought him much pleasure.

All of us at Savant Records, along with his musical colleagues and his legion of fans worldwide, will miss Ray Mantilla, both the musician and the man.— Savant Records

