

Back Cover

Front Cover



THE CRAIG RUSSO **LATIN JAZZ** PROJECT

*Soul
Eyes*

CD400

4-Panel Jewel Box Insert
Adobe InDesign
01/23/08 jgs

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LATIN JAZZ FROM CENTRAL ILLINOIS?

Yes! It may first come as a surprise that a Latin jazz group exists outside a major metropolitan area and outside any major Hispanic community. Maybe it should not be such a surprise. Appreciation of Afro-Caribbean music reaches far beyond preconceptions of who is its audience. Similarly, many musicians who have otherwise little connection to Hispanic culture, are strongly attracted to this music. Jazz musicians, in particular, are drawn to its rich, rhythmic complexity and improvisational freedom. In fact, musicians from the jazz world and the Latin music world use the same word to describe the feeling of the music's groove: Swing!

All of the musicians on this recording come from a straight-ahead jazz background. Latin jazz is, therefore, our second language. Inevitably, we play with an "accent." That is, we cannot claim to express the Afro-Caribbean flavor of this music with the same authenticity as "native speakers." Despite this, our music has its own authenticity. It is an authenticity that naturally comes from the dedication and talent of the musicians. Enjoy!

—Craig Russo May 2004

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks first and most to my wife Marina, for understanding my passion for this music.

Realizing this project has taken countless hours of practice, numerous live performances, many days and nights in the studio, and even three research/study trips to Cuba.

Through all of this, you have supported me patiently, unconditionally and lovingly.

Thanks to the musicians for listening; not only listening in the usual sense of communicating while playing, but listening to my ideas and concepts for this recording. Your open ears and open minds, even while sometimes in unfamiliar territory, are what make this group and recording possible.

Thanks to my parents, for always making good music part of our home. This was a great gift and is the ultimate source of all my passion for music, both as listener and player.

Thanks to Mark Rubel for your positive attitude, great ears, and amazing technical prowess in the studio.

1. Sabor—mambo* · 5:52

Composer—João Donato

Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Chip McNeill—Tenor Saxophone
Sean Parsons—Piano
Toby Curtright—Bass
Jeff Magby—Drumset
Craig Russo—Congas, Güiro, Cowbell

2. Soul Eyes—jazz-cha-cha-chá · 6:37

Arranged by Douglas Little & Craig Russo
Composer—Mal Waldron

Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Douglas Little—Alto Saxophone
Chris Mahieu—Piano
Toby Curtright—Bass
Jeff Magby—Timbales
Craig Russo—Congas, Drumset, Güiro

3. You Stepped Out of a Dream—jazz-bomba-mambo · 5:45

Arranged by Douglas Little & Craig Russo
Composer: N. Brown & G. Kahn

Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Douglas Little—Alto Saxophone
Chris Mahieu—Piano
Toby Curtright—Bass
Jeff Magby—Drumset
Craig Russo—Congas, Timbales, Güiro, Clave, Quinto

4. A Flower Is A Lovesome Thing—jazz-bolero-Afro-Cuban 6/8 · 5:45

Arranged by Douglas Little
Composer—Billy Strayhorn

Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Douglas Little—Alto Saxophone
Simon Rowe—Piano
Toby Curtright—Bass
Jeff Magby—Drumset
Craig Russo—Congas, Bongos, Chékere

5. Speak No Evil—jazz-songo · 6:16

Arranged by Douglas Little & Craig Russo
Composer—Wayne Shorter

Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Douglas Little—Alto Saxophone
Chris Mahieu—Piano
Toby Curtright—Bass
Jeff Magby—Timbales
Craig Russo—Drumset, Congas, Güiro, Chékere

6. ESP—jazz-Afro-Cuban 6/8-songo · 5:56

Arranged by Douglas Little & Craig Russo
Composer—Wayne Shorter

Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Douglas Little—Alto Saxophone
Simon Rowe—Piano
Toby Curtright—Bass
Jeff Magby—Drumset
Craig Russo—Congas, Timbales, Chékere

7. Maiden Voyage—jazz-mambo · 6:48

Composer—Herbie Hancock

Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Chip McNeill—Tenor Saxophone
Sean Parsons—Piano
Jeff Magby—Timbales
Craig Russo—Congas, Bongos, Drumset, Güiro

8. Moanin'—jazz-swing · 8:00

Composer—Bobby Timmons

Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Chip McNeill—Tenor Saxophone
Sean Parsons—Piano
Toby Curtright—Bass
Craig Russo—Drumset

9. The Lamp Is Low—jazz-comparsa-mambo · 5:03

Arranged by Chip McNeill & Craig Russo
Composer—Parish, Ravel, Derose,

Peter & Sheffer
Jeff Helgesen—Trumpet
Chip McNeill—Tenor Saxophone
Sean Parsons—Piano
Toby Curtright—Bass
Jeff Magby—Drumset (Comparsa Coda-Snare Drum, Re Bajador, Conga, Bombo, Agogo Bells)
Craig Russo—Congas, Cowbells, Chékere (Comparsa Coda—Quinto, Tres Dos, Salidor, Cowbells, Chékere)

*Music style descriptions refer to the major rhythmic concept for each piece. These are our interpretations of classic Afro-Caribbean rhythm forms. These are not pure, traditional versions of these forms.

Executive Producer: Craig Russo · Produced by Craig Russo & Mark Rubel
Recorded and Mixed by Mark Rubel at Pogo Studios, Champaign Illinois, between July 2003 & May 2004 · Mastered by Ken Lee at Ken Lee Mastering, Oakland, California
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THE CRAIG RUSSO LATIN JAZZ PROJECT - SOUL EYES

THE CRAIG RUSSO LATIN JAZZ PROJECT

with Toby Curtright, Jeff Helgesen, Douglas Little,
Jeff Magby, Chris Mahieu, Chip McNeill,
Sean Parsons & Simon Rowe

1. **Sabor** (Delta R & E) 5:52
2. **Soul Eyes** (Prestige Music/BMI) 6:37
3. **You Stepped Out of a Dream** 5:45
(EMI Feist Catalog Inc/ASCAP)
4. **A Flower Is A Lovesome Thing** 5:45
(Billy Strayhorn Songs, Inc/Dreamworks
Songs/ASCAP)
5. **Speak No Evil** (Miyako Music/BMI) 6:16
6. **ESP** (Miyako Music/BMI) 5:56
7. **Maiden Voyage** (Hancock Music Co/BMI) 6:48
8. **Moanin'** (Second Floor Music/BMI) 8:00
9. **The Lamp Is Low** (Parmit Music Co & EMI
Robbins Catalog Inc/ASCAP) 5:03

For more information go to:
www.craigrusso.com

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THE CRAIG RUSSO LATIN JAZZ PROJECT - SOUL EYES

GOOT-002

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Jewel Box Traycard
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THE CRAIG RUSSO LATIN JAZZ PROJECT

with Toby Curtright, Jeff Helgesen, Douglas Little,
Jeff Magby, Chris Mahieu, Chip McNeill,
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Soul Eyes

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