

# Hispanic<sup>®</sup>

## MAGAZINE

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CULTURA

## Music

### *Artists who are in a class all their own*

BY MARK HOLSTON

“Masterpiece” is also an apt description of the latest salsa-accented Latin jazz treat from violinist **Susie Hansen** on **The Salsa Never Ends** (Jazz Caliente JZC228). Hansen is a staple on the Latin music scene in Southern California, and her sweet, swinging violin brings an exciting new voice to a genre that often seems just to repeat overly familiar formulas. She’s in splendid company with a group that includes percussionist Tiki Pasillas, vocalists Rubén Esteva and George Balmaseda, and saxophonist Justo Almario. Often it’s the spirit of Cuban *charanga* and vintage salsa that she taps, as on the title tune, while elsewhere she mixes it up with tracks like the merengue fueled “Blues con Fuego” and the romantic bolero “La pregunta,” which allows her elegant classical technique to surface. *The Salsa Never Ends* is indeed masterful.

