

Ken Franckling's Jazz Notes

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CDs of Note...

Susie Hansen, **Representante de la Salsa** (Jazz Caliente)

Yes, salsa is for dancing. And the L.A.-based Susie Hansen Latin Band

took that feeling to heart in its latest recording. This uptempo session will even make you want to dance in place while listening - even if you're sitting down. But I dare you not to stand and move. The leader's electric violin rides the band's percussive cushion like a surfboard on a great wave. At times one with the horn section, at times contrasting with it, she often sounds like a trumpeter.

Some of my favorites are their takes on tunes not associated with salsa: a remake of Blood, Sweat & Tears' "Vehicle" (vocals compliments of Kaspar Abbo [lead], George Balmaseda and Hansen) and something called "Frank Sinatra Cha Cha Cha." The latter is a salsa medley, arranged by trombonist David Stout, of four tunes closely linked to Ol' Blue Eyes: "Fly Me to the Moon," "It Could Happen to You," "It Had to be You" and "All of Me." The title track is one of the many burners here.



Ken Franckling is a veteran jazz journalist and freelance photographer specializing in music photography.

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