

## Thunderous Latin Rhythms Reverberated thru UCLA & Westwood

A throng of people were in attendance at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on the campus of UCLA and Hammer Museum

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I'm still feeling the infectious rhythms of charanga, salsa, Latin jazz and Brazilian music in my pulse several days after my recent visit to UCLA and the Hammer Museum in Westwood.

The purpose for my visit was to attend the annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on the campus of UCLA as well as The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music Department of Ethnomusicology and the Hammer Museum joint presentation of Spring Festival of World Music.

Both of these events, held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 were free to the public.

My first stop upon arriving at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books was the Etc. Stage. Susie Hansen Latin Band was holding court on this outdoor stage. Violinist Susie Hansen Latin Band is a popular group here in Los Angeles. The salseros on the West coast are sure to catch this hot band on many occasions between now and the end of the year at various events throughout California.



This tight ensemble consist of Susie Hansen-violin (pictured); Joe Rotundi-keyboards; Rene Camacho-bass; George Balmaseda-vocals; Kaspar Abbo-vocals; Tiki Pasillas-drums; Victor Baez-bongos; and Jose "Papo" Rodriguez on congas. They played material from previous CD's Solo Flight and The Salsa Never Ends, and an upcoming CD to be released soon.

The group contributed to Global Warming on this chilly Saturday afternoon. Sitting wasn't an option if you wanted to keep warm while grooving to the hot sounds of charanga, salsa and Latin jazz. The band served up some cha, cha, cha on a medley of Frank Sinatra tunes "Fly Me To The Moon," "It Could Happen To You," "It Had To Be You," and "All of Me." The group concluded their crowd pleasing set with a tune that is becoming an anthem for salseros all over the world "La Salsa Nunca Se Acaba"- The Salsa Never Ends.