

## Fresh Lalama Tracks

For the last 35 years, tenor-sax master Ralph Lalama has been a mainstay on the New York jazz scene. During that time, the 59-year-old Yonkers resident with the warm, muscular sound has worked as a member of Woody Herman's Thundering Herd and Buddy Rich's big band. In 1983 he became a member of the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra (known as the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra since Lewis' death in 1990), a group with whom he continues to play every Monday night at the Village Vanguard and with whom he's recorded 11 albums. He's played and recorded regularly with the Joe Lovano Nonet since its inception in 1999. As a leader, Lalama released five widely acclaimed albums during the 1990s on the Dutch label Criss Cross, and, with the release of *The Audience* in January, two more discs within the last few years on the Mighty Quinn Productions imprint.

Lalama recorded *The Audience* with his working quartet, a tight and spirited unit that includes guitarist John Hart, bassist Rick Petrone and drummer Joe Corsello. The disc's 10 straight-ahead tracks range from covers of Wayne Shorter's "Marie Antoinette" and Stevie Wonder's "Living for the City" to several originals (penned by Lalama and his bandmates) to an album-closing stroll through Johnny Mercer's "I'm an Old Cowhand." It's a nice mix, all of it played in compelling fashion by a band of assured veterans and spearheaded by a saxophonist who, while well-known in New York jazz circles, is certainly deserving of wider recognition.

For more information, go to [www.ralphalama.com](http://www.ralphalama.com).

# Prelude

