

## RALPH LALAMA

**CAVATAPPO / MAY 11 and SMALLS JAZZ CLUB / MAY 20**

Ralph Lalama is in the mold of great tenor saxophonists like Sonny Rollins and Hank Mobley. Ralph plays timeless melodies in a stimulating manner, demonstrating his harmonic gifts and strong technique, while never failing to swing. Encouraged by Thad Jones to come to New York, Ralph promptly worked with him after arriving in 1975. He did stints with Woody Herman, Buddy Rich and Mel Lewis, in addition to being a core member of the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. Though he has recorded sporadically as a leader, Ralph's CDs always have adventurous playlists. He enjoys interpreting obscure works by jazz greats, along with finding fresh ways to play familiar standards. The saxophonist is also an underrated composer. His quartet includes pianist Dave Lalama, bassist Alec Safy and drummer Mike Camacho. At Smalls he brings his Bop-Juice band with David Wong, bass and Clifford Barbaro, drums. **KD**

