

It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't Got That Tumbao

Here's a riddle for you - What food and dance have the same name? Well it's "salsa" of course. Why do they have the same name? Maybe because they're both saucy, spicy and full of flavor.

Tito Puente was famous for combining Afro-Cuban and Latin-Jazz music which came to be called salsa. But he never liked the term. He used to say "Salsa goes on food!" So, to call the Seattle band *Carlos Cascante y su Tumbao* a salsa band is to completely underestimate the groove power of this thrilling Latin sextet from Seattle.

Vocalist Carlos Cascante also sings with the Grammy winning Spanish Harlem Orchestra. Maynard Ferguson said of trumpeter Thomas Marriott, "Thomas Marriott is a truly great jazz trumpet player." Havana born Pedro Vargas (congas) grew up in Cuba and brings a rich Cuban influence to Tumbao. Before pianist Julio Jáuregui developed his tasteful and perfectly suited piano skills, he studied percussion. Jeff Busch is an exuberant drummer/percussionist, vocalist, and composer. Dean Schmidt is one of the most sought after bassists in the Northwest and has performed with singers Jane Powell and Pat Boone.

But you can call them a salsa band if it makes you feel good. Because feeling good is what Tumbao is about; feeling good and dancing to express it. Lucky for us because Tumbao is coming to Flathead Valley in June. Jim McElroy of JazzReview.com said of Tumbao's cd *Recuerdos*, "There are several things you need to do before you start to listen to this CD. First move all the furniture against the walls, you'll need dance room, second invite the neighbors (joy such as this should be spread around), third turn up the volume (those that don't fit in the house

still need to hear this) and lastly put the disc on repeat mode (once is definitely not enough).”

Over time salsa has come to mean so many things that it doesn't mean much any more. But Tumbao means something. According to Mark Holston, music journalist and leader of the band Cocinando, “Technically, Tumbao primarily relates to the figure that the bass plays. It can also refer to what the conga drummer does. But “tiene tumbao” (he or she has “tumbao”) can relate to how a dancer moves. If they have tumbao, they are keying in on the rhythm.”

Trumpeter Tom Marriott further defines Tumbao as follows, ”Tumbao is the name of the largest conga drum, as well as the bass-line that underlies the rhythm. In that sense, we also use the word to describe the feeling of the music. Sort of like the word "swing " in jazz, it's a style of groove, but when all the components are locked-in, we say it's swinging, regardless of what kind of groove is actually being played. So we refer to "The Groove" as "Tumbao." It's the foundation, the thing that is fundamental to music and life.”

Carlos Cascante y su Tumbao will perform on the following dates:

Thursday, June 25th, Lakeside (venue to be determined) \$25

Friday, June 26th 8pm O'Shaughnessy Cultural Arts Center, Whitefish \$25

Saturday, June 27th 8pm Kalispell Eagles Club, Kalispell \$20

Sunday, June 28th, 8pm BruMar Estate, Bigfork \$25

Tickets sold at SingerandSimpson.com or call 406-730-2817

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Future Don “K” Subaru/Singer & Simpson Production events include:

Peter Nero, September 12th, Whitefish Performing Arts Center

The Ray Brown Tribute Trio

Friday, October 9th, Whitefish Performing Arts Center

Saturday, October 10th, Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts

Sunday, October 12th, Whitefish Lake Restaurant

Judy Collins

Saturday, November 14th, Whitefish Performing Arts Center

Sunday, November 15th, Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts.

Tickets available soon!