



LOS CALVOS ... y Que Calvos!

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EL PALMAS MUSIC

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DESCRIPTION

El Palmas Music present a reissue of the second album from Venezuela's **Los Calvos**, ... y *Que Calvos!*, originally released in 1968. This second and lamentably final album found the group creating a signature sound with the musicians given free rein and a stronger push to the dance floor, this is músicaailable personified. The drum kit was instrumental to their image and sound; it was an instrumental unusual in salsa at the time. So much so that their own drummer **Frank "Pavo" Hernandez** had said disparagingly that "salsa with a drum kit is like pasta with avocado". Kudos then to "Pavo", along with fellow drummer **Alfredo Padilla**, who seamlessly integrated the instrument into the line-up, allowing its heavy hits to add energy and power to the group's sound. Vocal duties throughout are split evenly, five tracks a piece in fact, between **Carlos "Carlín" Asicio Rodríguez** and **Carlos "Calaven" Yanes**. It is Calaven who surprises the most, his mischievous delivery and ability to improvise and scat placing him in the higher echelons of vocalists, and not just within salsa. "José", which is also a showcase for bandleader **Ray Perez** to free wheel on the piano, is a perfect example of Calaven's ability to enliven any descarga (jam) with unexpected vocal turns; but then, even on the album's original single "El Moño De Maria" he shows that with a few variations on the chorus, he can elevate any song. His partner in vocals, Carlín, is no slouch either, leading the driving "Tiene La Razón" with ease and showing that he can get down and dirty on the percussion-heavy "El Tumbleco". Perez was one of Venezuela's finest bandleaders, also helming the legendary **Los Dementes**, **Los Kenya**, and others, and he brings a number of famous friends and allies to the party. Professional lucha fighter turned composer **Gustavo "El Chiclayano" Seclén** contributes the playful "El Marciano y Yo" ("The Martian and Me"), which allows Calaven plenty of opportunity to improvise, his imitations of intergalactic beings a wonderful thing, with what sounds like the rim of a wine glass being used to create Mars-esque special effects. You can also hear **Perucho Torcatt**, a regular collaborator of Ray Perez's in *Los Dementes*, adding his voice throughout the album. ... y *Que Calvos!* is not for the idle, it's an album which does not allow you to sit down. Powerful, inventive, and abundant of rhythm. A lost salsa classic.

TRACKLISTING

01. Salsa y Sandunga
02. Tiene La Razón
03. El Moño de María
04. Pero En Caracas
05. Suenan Los Cueros
06. El Tumbleco
07. El Marciano
08. La Rumba Te Llama
09. José
10. La Lengua



HIGHLIGHTS

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- This second and lamentably final album found the group creating a signature sound with the musicians given free rein and a stronger push to the dance floor, this is músicaailable personified.
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