

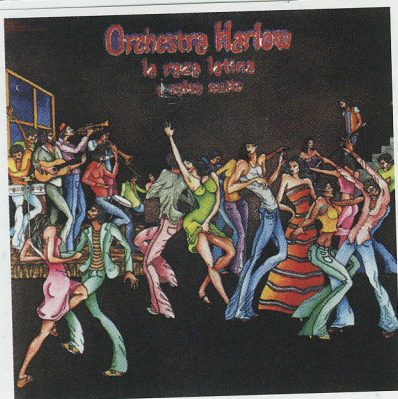
SALSA, LATIN JAZZ, LATIN POP, AFRO-WORLD AND MORE

LATIN BEAT

M A G A Z I N E

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\$3.50 U.S./\$4.50 CANADA



ORCHESTRA HARLOW La Raza Latina (Fania/EMúsica)

The Fania label had many talented musicians, but very few geniuses—for a lack of a better word—in its roster. Pianist Larry Harlow for sure belongs to the second, privileged group. He not only made music; he also constantly experimented, and many times the results were masterpieces, such as the spectacular *La Raza Latina*.

The album is composed of four suites, where Harlow explored the musical history of the Caribbean. It opens with the majestic *La Raza Latina*, with vocals by the late Néstor Sánchez, one of salsa's underrated stars. However, this tune is not part of the suite – it just a grand opening, if you will. Rubén Blades magnificently sings in most of the rest of the recording, with the late, great Frankie Rodríguez doing the vocals on the African chants. Special mention is due to Rosa Soy, Ada Chabrier y Nancy O'Neill – the chorus, who would later be part of the legendary Latin Fever orchestra. Add to this the luxurious arrangements, including violins, and the result is just mesmerizing, a product of one of the most creative minds in salsa's history. (EEG)