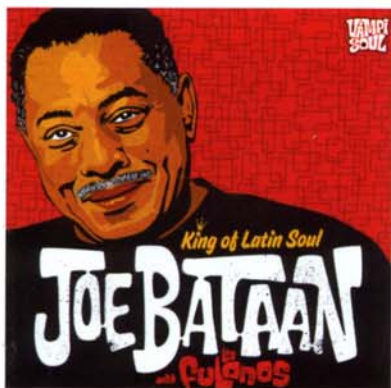


**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
**Putumayo Presents ¡Salsa!**  
**(Putumayo World Music)**

Launched in 1993 by Dan Storper and Michael Kraus, Putumayo World Music was created with the purpose of introducing people to the musical cultures of the world. Today, the label is known primarily for its upbeat and eclectic compilations of great international music characterized by the company's motto: "guaranteed to make you feel good!" This latest release under the label's Latin music division unleashes ten hip-shaking tracks from some of the hottest salsa bands in the Americas. The salsa dance party opens with Colombia's Grupo Galé and the selection *Volver, Volver*, followed by Los Angeles' Poncho Sánchez (*El Shing-a-Ling*). Representing New York City are Chico Álvarez (*Rumba En el Solar*) and Eddie Palmieri (*Sujétate La Lengua*). Other favorites include Orquesta Aragón (featuring Cheo Feliciano on *Son al Son*), Son Boricua (*Muñeca*), Juanito y La Agresiva (*Angoa*), and Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca (*¡Ay Valeria!*). Liner notes are provided in English, Spanish and French. (RM)



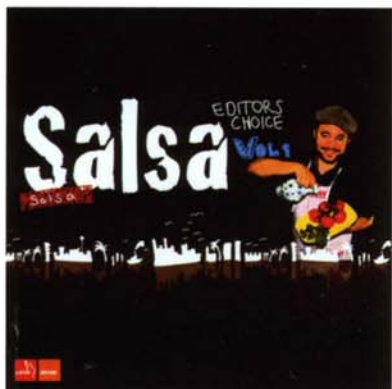
**JOE BATAAN**  
**King Of Latin Soul**  
**(Vampisoul Records)**

They say a cat has nine lives, and Joe Bataan has lived a multitude of lives in his long illustrious career. Although he's been out of the scene for many years, Bataan is back in great form with this excellent hard-core Latin soul release from Vampisoul Records (of Madrid, Spain). Joining Bataan for this special project is the Barcelona-based Latin funk group Los Fulanos, with production duties skillfully fulfilled by Miguelito Superstar, vocalist and composer with Fundación Tony Manero. With this album, Mr. New York revisits and revamps some of his most beloved anthems as well as some more obscure numbers. For the first time ever, Joe sings his salsa hit *Puerto Rico Me Llama* in Spanish – and it's a muy bonito (very neat and pretty) track. In addition, Bataan revisits *The Bottle*, but this time gives it a rousing vocal treatment. With avid fans all over the world waiting to see what he's going to do next, The King of Latin Soul—who insists he's just an "Ordinary Guy"—is poised to bring his extraordinary message of "Peace, Friendship and Solidarity" to a new generation for the first time, as well as once again to the old folks who never forgot him in the first place. Salsoul indeed! (PY)



**TUMBAO BRAVO**  
**Un Sistema Para Todo**  
**(PKO Records)**

Led by conguero Alberto Nacif and reedman Paul Vornhagen, Tumbao Bravo is a 5-to-7 piece (depending on the gig's requirements) Latin jazz ensemble from Detroit, Michigan. *Un Sistema Para Todo* continues the band's exploration into the marriage of various Afro-Cuban rhythms (mambo, rumba, chachachá and bolero) with jazz elements and modalities. Eleven original scores deliver the musical talent and visions of these top-notch players. New members Wesley Reynoso (piano) and Patrick Prouty (bass) add a fresh dynamic to the ensemble. Rounding off the band are Robert Mojica (trumpet/flugelhorn), Kevin "Cano" Quiles (bongó), and Javier Barrios (timbal). Leading the standouts are the opening track *Sayulita*, (an upbeat mambo led by the flute of Vornhagen), the title tune *Un Sistema Para Todo* (inspired by the definition of the Russian word Systema), and *Ritmo Bravo* (a break number for the band to jam). (RM)



**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
**Salsa: Editors Choice, Vol.1**  
**(Latinmusik.ch)**

This first collection generated by the Zürich, Switzerland-based Latin music website [www.latinmusik.ch](http://www.latinmusik.ch) showcases the amazing international salsa repertoire of this cyberspace music hub, consisting of a dozen tracks of tunes frequently requested of DJs, and known to raise the mood at any given party, thus resulting in a new anthology of some of the finest salsa tunes from the last few years. The music was created by bands based in Colombia (Calambuco and LA-33), the USA (Direct Latin Influence, Grupo Latin Vibe, and Bio Ritmo), Costa Rica (Son de Tikizia), Italy (El Timba), Japan (Grupo Chévere), Spain (La Sucursal S.A.), England (Manteca), Sweden (Calle Real), and Switzerland/Cuba (Conjunto Salsómetro). Get hip to the sounds that salseros from all over the world are enjoying and dancing to these days. The sale of this CD supports the maintenance and the expansion of the website, allowing it to remain free of advertisement. (RM)