

a way, because I first started playing that tune in San Francisco clubs ten years earlier, in 1954. Then ten years later, it's a hit in New York. You tell me! Willie Bobo played jawbone on that one, and Al McKibbon played congas. It was originally called 'Guachi Guara' but we knew that name wouldn't make it, so we just called it Soul Sauce."

Tjader re-signed with Fantasy Records in 1970. Some of his varied recordings for Fantasy include a collaborative effort with Charlie Byrd "Tambu," ('73) and an exciting live performance "Puttin' It Together." ('75) His much-acclaimed "Amazonas," ('75) was produced by Airtio, with arrangements from keyboard wizard George Duke.

Cal Tjader also worked with a great variety of groups and formats, as with Carmen Mcrae, Mary Stallings, Modern Mambo Quintet, and his Quartet, with which he opted for a more straight ahead jazz direction. His recorded output was immense, and many are readily available as his popularity has remained unabated.

Cal Tjader died May 5, 1982.

CAL TJADER

Live at the Blackhawk



Live at the Blackhawk is a great sampling of vibraphonist Cal Tjader's influential Latin jazz of the 1950s. With pianist Vince Guaraldi, bassist Al McKibbon, Willie Bobo on timbales and drums, and the congas of Mongo Santamaria, Tjader's impressive unit performs four of his catchy originals and two by Santamaria in addition to Latinized versions of "The Continental" and Ray Bryant's "Cubano Chant." This highly rhythmic music is hard to dislike.

Cal Tjader crafted one of the sleekest and most distinctive sounds in Latin jazz. His cool, shimmering, jazz vibes, gliding fluidly atop fiery, hot Afro-Cuban rhythms, made for a sonic signature that helped introduce the genre into a mainstream audience.

Cal Tjader's mother was a concert pianist, his father a vaudeville performer. He grew up with them on the road, tap-dancing his way through early childhood. Later, the family settled down in San Mateo on the San Francisco Peninsula, and his father opened a dancing school. After high school and a stint in the Navy, Cal ended up at San Francisco State College, where he first met up with Dave Brubeck and Paul Desmond.

Tjader graduated in 1950 with a B.A. in education and a minor in music. With Brubeck, Tjader hit the big time and he liked it. The years between 1949 and 1951 were spent with Brubeck. Then, after a short stint as leader of his own group, Cal joined George Shearing's Quintet as featured vibraphonist and percussionist. While with Shearing Cal made frequent trips to New York and began listening to the Latin New York bands of Tito Puente and Machito.

When Tjader left Shearing, he formed his own group again and began to record prolifically for Fantasy. Between 1954 and 1962, Tjader cut a series of over 20 albums for Fantasy. The list of people who recorded with him during that time is truly impressive. Some are Eddie Palmieri, (on whom he had a major influence) Vince Guaraldi, Mongo Santamaria, Willie Bobo, Stan Getz, Al McKibbon, Armando Peraza, Latin percussionist Johnnie Rae, and saxophonist Paul Horn. Many of those albums are still in the Fantasy catalog. He then signed on with Verve in 1963, and continued on a roll.

Tjader's biggest-selling record was "Soul Sauce." Cal recalls, "I recorded that for MGM/ Verve in 1964. And it's very strange, in

CAL TJADER

Live at the Blackhawk

- 1 Viva Cepeda 3:40**
- 2 Mood For Milt 3:10**
- 3 The Continental 3:50**
- 4 Lucero 4:26**
- 5 ¿Tu Crees Que? 4:45**
- 6 Mi Guaguanco 4:45**
- 7 Cubano Chant 4:04**
- 8 A Young Love Theme 9:30**
- 9 Theme 0:559**

Vibraphone - Cal Tjader Bass - Al McKibbon
Congas - Mongo Santamaria Drums, Timbales - Willie Bobo
Piano - Vince Guaraldi

Recorded at the Blackhawk, San Francisco, September 1958 by Fantasy Records
