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HIGH DEFINITION TAPE TRANSFERS

El Chico Chico Hamilton

with

- Gabor Szabo
- Sadao Watanabe
- Al Stinson
- Victor Pantoja
- Willie Bobo
- Jimmy Cheatham

In 1965, Japanese altoist Sadao Watanabe was Chico Hamilton's regular reed player, and it is for his playing (fairly early in his career) that this LP is most notable. Also heard from is guitarist Gabor Szabo (winding up a long period with Hamilton), bassist Al Stinson, guest trombonist Jimmy Cheatham (on three of the eight songs), and the Latin percussion of Willie Bobo and Victor Pantoja. The band plays a couple of movie themes (including "People"), three Hamilton originals, a group improvisation, and two obscurities. The influences of Latin jazz, bossa nova, and the avant-garde are mixed into the unusual musical blend.

Chico Hamilton, a subtle and creative drummer, will probably always be remembered for the series of quintets that he led during 1955-1965 and for his ability as a talent scout than for his fine drumming. Hamilton

first played drums while in high school with the many fine young players (including Dexter Gordon, Illinois Jacquet, and Charles Mingus) who were in Los Angeles at the time. He made his recording debut with Slim Gaillard, was house drummer at Billy Berg's, toured with Lionel Hampton, and served in the military (1942-1946). In 1946, Hamilton worked briefly with Jimmy Mundy, Count Basie, and Lester Young (recording with Young). He toured as Lena Horne's drummer (on and off during 1948-1955), and gained recognition for his work with the original Gerry Mulligan piano-less quartet (1952-1953).

El Chico

Chico Hamilton

- 1 El Chico 4:06
 - 2 People 6:06
 - 3 Marcheta 4:00
 - 4 This Dream 3:17
 - 5 Conquistadores (The Conquerors) 6:40
 - 6 El Moors 2:22
 - 7 Strange 4:46
 - 8 Helena 4:20
- Total Time: 35:37tt**

Engineer – Bob Simpson Producer – Bob Thiele
Recorded August 26 & 27, 1965 by Impulse Records
