

Gato Barbieri - Caliente (1986)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Fireflies* 5:30 2 *Fiesta* 5:08 3 *Europa (Earth's Cry Heaven's Smile)* 4:26 4 *Don't Cry Rochelle* 4:56 5 *Adios - Part I* 0:33 6 *I Want You* 5:56 7 *Behind The Rain* 5:36 8 *Los Desperados* 6:17 9 *Adios - Part II* 1:00 Bass – Gary King Drums – Lenny White Guitar – David Spinozza, Eric Gale, Joe Beck Keyboards – Eddy Martinez Keyboards, Synthesizer – Don Grolnick Orchestrated By – Jay Chattaway Percussion – Cachete Maldonado, Mtume, Ralph MacDonald Saxophone [Tenor], Arranged By – Gato Barbieri Strings – Alan Shulman, Alfred Brown, Charles McCracken, David Nadien, Harold Kohon, Harry Cykman, Harry Glickman, Harry Lookofsky, Matthew Raimondi, Max Ellen, Max Polikoff, Paul Gershman, Theodore Israel Trombone – David Taylor, Paul Faulise, Wayne Andre Trumpet – Bernie Glow, Irvin Markowitz, Marvin Stamm, Randy Brecker

Believe it or not, this Argentinian-born saxophonist spent his early years playing in the jazz avant-garde with the likes of Don Cherry. But for all his free-form experiments, "the Cat" hit his stride with this pristine piece of seminal pop-jazz. His emotional, warm-blooded playing, gritty-sweet tone, and Latin-laced grooves slide down smooth and easy. Covers of Santana's "Europa (Earth's Cry Heaven's Smile)" and Marvin Gaye's "I Want You" remain faithful to the originals' vibe, yet take on a seductive Spanish accent thanks to Barbieri's expressive tenor and a battery of Latin percussion. Elsewhere, hip-swiveling rhythms and tuneful arrangements of cuts like "Fiesta," "Behind the Rain," and "Los Desperados" simply simmer. Drummer Lenny White kicks down a rock-solid beat, percussionists Ralph MacDonald and Mtume add the spice that's funky and nice, and producer Herb Alpert (of Tijuana Brass, and the "A" in A&M Records) polishes the proceedings to a glossy sheen with colorful orchestrations and silky strings. ---Rovi

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