

Hector Lavoe - La Voz

Written by bluelover

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Hector Lavoe - La Voz (1975)



1. *El Todopoderoso* 4:20 2. *Emborrachame De Amor* 2:59 3. *Paraiso De Dulzura* 4:35 4. *Un Amor De La Calle* 3:23 5. *Rompe Saraguey* 6:32 6. *Mucho Amor* 2:10 7. *Tus Ojos* 3:34 8. *Mi Gente* 5:30

Héctor Lavoe - Vocals Tom Malon - Trombone José Rodríguez - Trombone Ray Maldonado - Trumpet solo on "Mi Gente" Héctor Zarzuela - Trumpet solo on "Rompe Saragüey" Milton Cardona - Conga José Mangual - Bongo Eddie "Gua-gua" Rivera - Bass Nicky Marrero - Timbal Mark Dimond - Piano Rubén Blades - Backing vocals Willie Colón - Backing vocals Willie García - Backing vocals

While never released as a single, Hector's truly superb cover version of the classic bolero "Tus Ojos" (previously recorded by both Santos Colon and Vicentico Valdes) is this album's crown jewel. In my opinion, said song is Hector's all-time best vocal performance--so much so, in fact, that I'd say it was nothing short of shameful that it wasn't issued as a single. "El Todopoderoso", "Rompe Saraguey" and "Mi Gente" were the big hits --which deservedly became classics--but "Tus Ojos" remains beautiful beyond compare. ---Justo Roteta

A great among greats, this great artist's life was marked by a tragic destiny. Hector Lavoe's interest in music began in his native Puerto Rico. In search of new opportunities, he traveled to New York with a suitcase full of dreams and the firm goal of landing a job in the music world. The road ahead was not an easy one. There were many obstacles to overcome, and the price was high, as it often is for immigrants. He held down precarious day jobs for bad pay; but at night, he gave free rein to his dreams, performing in various night clubs. Johnny Pacheco happened to hear him perform at one of those night clubs. In Lavoe he discovered a powerful voice and the easiest of manners. He was so impressed that he told Willie Colon he had found a singer for the recording of his first album, "El malo." The combination of Hector Lavoe and

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Willie Colon enriched the world of salsa and set the stage for their collaboration, which lasted seven years. It also gave birth to 10 albums, full of vibrant songs that spoke the language of the street, a type of musical narrative that the public identified with, one that cemented salsa as a genre. In 1975, Fania Records decided to launch its singers with the most hits as soloists. Thus began a new phase of Hector Lavoe's career, just as brilliant and successful, boasting the release of many albums that are now part of his rich musical legacy. His life was an open book, each page of which documented the tragedy and heartbreak that marked and influenced the rise and fall of his brilliant professional career. Hector Lavoe died on June 29, 1993, at 46.

---Editorial Reviews, amazon.com

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