



RUSS HEWITT
OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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Biography

'Alma Vieja' is the latest CD from guitar virtuoso Russ Hewitt. Replete with the rumba flamenco rhythms and lightning guitar runs that have become trademarks of his distinctive style, 'Alma Vieja' also includes a stellar line up of backing musicians. Former Miami Sound Machine percussionist Raphael Padilla and drummer Walfredo Reyes Jr (who in his time has played with both Santana and Ricky Martin) are both around to lend a hand and are joined by bass player Bob Parr and exciting flamenco guitar prodigy Alfredo Caceres.

Other significant contributions come from the Grammy award-winning violinist Charlie Bisharat (who has graced the stage with heavyweights such as The Rolling Stones, Yanni and Aerosmith) and, perhaps most notably, contemporary jazz saxophonist Michael Lington who features on the first single released to radio, the easy grooving 'Pacific Sunrise', has made the Top 40 on the Smooth Jazz charts along with the second single 'Samba Samba'.

Hewitt's first CD, 'Bajo el Sol', also gained favorable opinion rapidly, translating into prolific air play and a ten week stay at #1 on Music Choice, the satellite-cable television smooth jazz playlist, and maintained a constant presence on the Smooth Jazz indie charts for over 16 weeks. The first track to be released to radio -- the dazzlingly Latin flavored title cut -- climbed into the Top 20 with the two that followed enjoying similar success. 'Lydia' peaked at #15 and stormed onto the Billboard's Top 40, while 'El Beso' made it onto that same Top 40 listing.

In addition, 'Bajo el Sol' made the ballot for the 52nd Grammy Awards in the categories Best Pop Instrumental Performance, Best Pop Instrumental Album, Best Instrumental Composition, Best Instrumental Arrangement and Best Engineered Album (in the non-classical section). 'El Beso' was included in the www.smoothjazznow.com Top 100 Smooth Jazz Songs of 2009 and, most significantly, from a field of 15,000 applicants. Hewitt gained an 'Honorable Mention' for the title song 'Bajo el Sol' in the Instrumental Music category at the 2009 International Songwriting Competition.

Hewitt has endorsements from Godin guitars, Radial Engineering, Analysis Plus Cables, Morley Pedals, V-Picks, Voodoo Lab, BBF pedal boards and DSL effects plus a monthly column in the guitar magazine 'The Sound', and continues to extend his boundaries into soundtracks and commercial work.



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Bajo el Sol
2008



Alma Vieja
2011

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Alma Vieja Press

"Extraordinario CD "Alma Vieja."

Luis Raul Montell, Jazz Caribe blogspot.com (Venezuela)

"I truly believe you are a wonderful talent...I want everyone to know how enrapturing your talent is; Nuevo Flamenco!"

Dionne Maldonado, 91.9FM NPR News and Jazz

"...knows how to bring the joy of Latin Jazz, Flamenco, Cuban or south American into the new and more modern dimension..."

Randy K of jazzuality.com (Indonesia)



"...Hewitt's music is immensely listenable, hugely entertaining and offers many a new twist to the genre..."

Bill Binkelman - Retailing Insight.com

"Arguably the best guitarist to ever hail from DFW area..."

Mark Beneventi of Lit Monthly

"The music of Russ Hewitt is filled with sunshine and with 'Alma Vieja,' it seems certain the the warm glow of attention will once again be very much on him."

Denis Poole - Smooth Jazz Therapy (United Kingdom)

"Amazing!" Chris Mann of Smoothjazz.de

"In his unique style, Russ Hewitt serves up the most enjoyable selection of rhythmic, energetic, and melodic tunes. His music is the gift that keeps giving!"

Jackie Anderson - "Midday Jazz" - WJAB 90.9 FM

"In an age of forgettable, less-than-stellar guitar performances, Russ Hewitt plays with grace, precision, facility, and the emotion of an OLD SOUL, on his aptly-named CD Alma Vieja."

Bruce Nazarian, "The Digital Guy" TDGRadio.net

"Hewitt continues to fuse his Nuevo Flamenco style with Latin and jazz themes with a very light touch of rock and roll attitude making his musical style unique and different to that of his peers."

Mike Debbage of Mainlypiano.com

"...the sound is rich and bursting with superb musicianship."

John M Peters of theborderland.co.uk (United Kingdom)





Alma Vieja Press

"Hewitt dazzles with his usual deft flamenco jazz sound..."

Robert Silverstein of MWE3.com

"There are 11 sparkling tunes and i can guarantee that you'll fall in love with Russ's talent-filled playing."

Rotcod Zzaj of Zzaj Productions.com

"Russ Hewitt is one of the best guitar players out there right now, and you NEED to know him."

Scott Itter of DrMusic.org

"Beautiful Album...Highly recommend getting your hand on this one." Distracted, Music Blog

"This second record work of Russ Hewitt comes to consolidate its artistic race like virtuoso of the guitar." Javier Garcia Escamez of nosolosmoothjazz.com (Spain)

"Bravo to Russ Hewitt for his second guitar masterpiece!" Kathy Parsons of MainlyPiano.com

"Contemporary wizard of the Flamenco and Smooth Jazz genres..." The Sound Guitar Magazine interview

"Originality seems to be a very definite and integral part of Hewitt's overall appeal and style."

Ronald Jackson of thesmoothjazzride.com

"...Hewitt has just the right mix of smoke and fire to keep it caliente enough to keep you coming back without burning your tongue." Chris Spector of Midwestrecord.com

"...in row with the most outstanding flamenco masters of the present." SergeKozlovsky.com (Belarus)

"Another classic album! A must listen for those who love real music!!" James Lewis - WTCC/Springfield,MA





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"Hewitt once again shows why he's a true virtuoso that can bring the Nuevo Flamenco and all its extension in the modern way at its best." jazzuality interview

"...gives a courteous nod to the old soul of flamenco and the contemporary idiom of rumba flamenco. Then, he leaves any preconceptions in the dust and pays forward the music, exploring its future potential. "

Cal Koat, Producer - worldbeatcanada radio and tv

"Your latest album "Alma Vieja" is one of the most notable of the year. As with your previous album, "Alma Vieja" delivers smooth, creative songs that remain fresh no matter how many times you hear them. Bravo!"

Gerry Regensburg - smoothmix.com radio

"...contains some of the most colorful,vibrant and exotic Latin/flamenco-style smooth jazz found on any shore."

Ronald Jackson, Smooth Jazz Vibes (Switzerland)

"...showcases to perfection his burgeoning ability as a songwriter."

Denis Poole, Smooth Jazz Therapy (United Kingdom)

"In 20+ years in the Dallas music scene, i have never encountered this level of talent." Mark Beneventi, Lit Monthly

"Brilliant fuse of flamenco and smooth contemporary jazz...amazing precise fretwork..." Randy K , Jazzuality (Indonesia)

"...contains some of the most colorful,vibrant and exotic Latin/flamenco-style smooth jazz found on any shore."

Ronald Jackson, Smooth Jazz Vibes (Switzerland)

"...really rather beautiful and just the soundtrack album for a warm summers evening." Paul Riley, Total Music Magazine (United Kingdom)



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Bajo el Sol press

"...aims to redefine ' nuevo flamenco'..."

La Factoria Del Ritmo (Mexico)

"Exceptional guitarist, Russ Hewitt's new release Bajo el Sol is a mix of colorful, vibrant and exotic Latin/flamenco-style smooth jazz."

Paul Martinez, Bull Fighters Cafe

"Brilliant debut album by guitarist Russ Hewitt."

Javier Garcia Escamez, No Solo Smooth Jazz (Spain)

"...outstanding technique and a obvious sense of melody, rhythm and dynamics."

Alan Taylor, Pipeline Instrumental Review (United Kingdom)



"Bajo el Sol is a profusion of melodies, rhythms, fraseados, textures, timbres, feelings, colors, tones, at last, a meeting of all the elements that construct a musical workmanship of high level."

Luis Roberto Costa - Musical Sun (Sao Paulo-Brasil)

"...outstanding technique and a obvious sense of melody, rhythm and dynamics."

Alan Taylor, Pipeline Instrumental Review

"Get used to hearing and saying the name because this guitar virtuoso is a star in the making."

Beth Lewis, listening loft - smoothjazz.com

"Russ Hewitts latest CD is "bajo el sol" and it's latin flavor is very romantic, perfect for your valentine, his sensual classical spanish guitar is light, romantic at times and is well produced."

Smoothjazz Saturday Nights with Taylor Scott, 98.1 KUDL

"It has been an honor to bring your music to our listeners around the planet. "BaJo el Sol" is a great release for you and I enjoy these tracks myself."

Dr.Mike- Michael Matheny, RadiolO Suite of JAZZ

"...you'll dig instantly the infectious tunes..." Jonathan Widran, Jazz Monthly

"Russ Hewitt's music fuses the exotic flavours of the Middle East with an exuberance that only seems to live within the best gipsy music. It's technically astounding but most of all you'll just want to dance..."

Chris Mann, smooth-jazz.de

"... this will remain in my personal CD collection." Mike Cavanaugh, All Access Magazine

"Hewitt displays technique and talent to spare as he adroitly lets passion and power fly up and down the fretboard and across the strings." Bill Binkelman, New Age Retailer



Bajo el Sol press

"Great playing but even more obvious are the hooks and songs. Russ Hewitt is hot. Enjoy."

Cliff Gorov, President, All That Jazz, Inc.

"... he infuses each tune with his own unique character, the way (all) music was meant to be played.."

Rotcod Zzaj, improvjazzation nation

"Bajo El Sol is a grand album, full of mellifluous and sinuous tunes...trying to select a few tracks above the rest is impossible." John M Peters, The Borderland (United Kingdom)

"Ostensibly, Bajo El Sol is very much a modern, instrumental Nuevo Flamenco album yet peer a little under the surface and you'll find a guitar-centric album of enormous depth and musical appeal."

Robert Silverstein, MWE3.com

"Russ Hewitt's solo debut is so impressive that he is capable of putting Texas on the Nuevo Flamenco guitar map with his distinctive fusion of Latin and jazz themes stirred with a little underlying rock and roll attitude." Jonathan Widran, Jazz Monthly

"Such a beautiful,emotional and sometimes haunting serving of nuevo flamenco..."

Christie Banks, Palm Living Magazines

"...Hewitt looks to be on his way to becoming the King of Nuevo Flamenco."

Emily Martin, Black White Read (Lakewood editon)

"Russ Hewitt is a true virtuoso - his instrument conveys the widest palette of emotions." Radiomagico

"...completely envelop listeners throughout..." Dan Kaplin, The Celebrity Cafe

"I really appreciate you for allowing me the honor of featuring your brilliant music on my station and to my listeners" Mike Fernandez, owner/program director Rhythm and Jazz Radio



"He is the embodiment of his craft..."

Kevin White, Harder Beat Dec/Jan issue

"I love the way Russ uses his fluid fingering skills..."

Rich Soos, Eartaste.com

"...listeners will be blown away by the tapestry of sound Hewitt weaves."

Wildy Haskell, WildysWorld.blogspot

"Russ captivates you and all of your senses in a unforgettable fashion leaving you craving more."

Christie Banks - on air personality

"Great music! Keep up the good work"

David Munoz, KQXT/Q1019 Jazz Show Host, Clear Channel

"...uncanny ability to write melodies that speak to the soul..."

Scott Itter, Dr.Music.com

"Thank you for this extraordinary inspiration for my writing."

Angela P, cheeriosandpearlsstories.blogspot.com

"Hewitt adds a softer touch to the tracks that will charm Latin Jazz devotees and yet makes the tracks accessible to a wider audience without surrendering to commercial pressures."

Ed Tankus President/GM Blue Plate Radio



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