

June 28, 2011

Media Alert:

**José Rizo's MONGORAMA**

(Saungu Records SR003)

Street Date June 21, 2011

CD Review: [Website Here](#)

**CUBAN SPICE:** All the world identifies band leader/percussionist Mongo Santamaria to his stomping Latin Jazz smash "Watermelon Man." Now "**Jose Rizo's Mongorama**" (Saungu, A-) illuminates Mongo's roots in charanga, a more lilting, though ever danceable style of Cuban music that the bandleader opened up to jazzier improvisations with his up-front blending of flute, violin and saxophone over a cooking rhythm section. A longtime West Coast DJ, Rizo fleshes out this labor of love with a terrific cast of players and singers, including M.S. band alum Hubert Laws (flute) and Justo Almario (sax)

Review by JONATHAN TAKIFF