



# MR BONGO RECORD CLUB VOL4

Curating the tracks for a Mr Bongo Record Club compilation is always a pleasure. The support and feedback we have received from the previous volumes has been amazing – thank you. It means a lot to us to know these albums are making a connection with fellow music obsessives all over the world. At a time when the expression ‘Music is My Sanctuary’ has even greater cathartic impact for many people, we wanted this volume to be an extra special one – like an old favourite mixtape or playlist.

For Volume 4 we continued in the same mould as previous editions, selecting current favourites and rare lost gems from the Brazilian, African, soul, funk, and disco genres. One departure from the norm with this volume has been the first time inclusion of three tracks by contemporary artists, two of which are taken from limited private press vinyl releases, and the third has only been previously available as a digital download. We felt their inclusion was important and wanted to share these wonderful tracks with a wider audience.

There is no getting away from it, the start of 2020 has been a tough and challenging time for everyone. We hope this selection of 17 songs might help in some way, whether it makes you move your feet, takes you on a trip somewhere, triggers a happy memory, or simply acts as a temporary distraction. We want you to dig this selection of tracks as much as we do!!!

Much love the Mr Bongo Family xxx

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## ONE

### 1. THE MODERN TROPICAL QUINTET *Midnight in Moscow*

‘Midnight In Moscow’ is a big favourite of Dave Bongo’s. With its charming countdown, it is one that Dave likes to use as a set opener. This quirky genre-hopping journey from the Brazilian group, ‘The Modern Tropical Quintet’ is taken from their self-titled album from 1966 and was originally released on ‘RCA Victor’.

### 2. JAMES REESE & THE PROGRESSIONS *Throwing Stones (Kenny Dope Mix)*

This track blew us away when Egon from ‘Now Again Records’ played us a test pressing whilst setting up shop for the Mr Bongo X Rappcats 2019 event. Such a tender yet powerful track, with Kenny Dope dusting his magic over it by re-arranging and extending this soulful beauty to perfection.

### 3. CINDY & THE PLAYMATES *Don’t Stop This Train*

‘Don’t Stop This Train’ is a big personal favourite with the DJ, record collector, and friend of the shop, Liam Finn. This heavy sister-funk monster from 1972 very seldomly turns up for sale. Liam felt it was criminal that it hadn’t been re-issued and we couldn’t agree more. A great tip, mate!

### 4. CARNIVAL *Eyes Growing Wider*

We are always surprised by the volume of previously unreleased, stunning music being unearthed, and this early 80’s UK post-punk meets Brit-funk number is one such example. Bassist and composer, Ian Fradgley is a massive fan of Brazilian music. He emailed the shop to inform us about the forthcoming EP of unreleased music by the Liverpool band Carnival (of which he was a member). The EP had originally been recorded back in 1982 / 83 and he thought we would enjoy it and may like to stock it in the shop – he was right. Gilles Peterson has described the band by saying they “sound like Freeez (Southern Freeez) meets Weekend (View From Her Room)”. We fell in love with this amazing song from the EP and are super grateful to Ian and the band for letting us include it on this album.

## TWO

### 1. AZWON *Paradise Island*

A lush female vocal-led modern-soul / jazz-fusion stunner with slight AOR touches from 1980 by the Florida-based band, Azwon. A firm favourite, tried and tested in our DJ sets. Super-scarce and extremely hard to find as an original 7”, but thankfully the excellent ‘Pressure Makes Diamonds’ record label managed to track down the band members and made this jewel available for all.

### 2. CARLOS PUEBLA & SANTIAGO MARTINEZ & PEDRO SOSA *Sun Sun Damba E*

Some things are just meant to be! On a flight over to New York, Dave Bongo was listening to Peter Power’s ‘Sun Sun Damba’ which samples Carlos Puebla. Not one to be able to walk past a record shop without a quick check, the next morning he passed an indie / alternative specialist shop in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, only to return moments later holding a copy of the said Carlos Puebla original record. By sheer chance it happened to be on the wall in the store at the right time and got spun at the amazing ‘Black Flamingo’ nightclub the very same night.

### 3. PEPE SANCHEZ Y SU ROCK-BAND *Sentimiento*

In the pre-Shazam era identifying a record would sometimes take years. Gareth always remembers hearing a wild-paced jazz-fusion instrumental track with a trippy wind sounds intro being spun at Brighton’s ‘Jazz Room’ club night in the ‘90s. Years later, though thinking there is no chance he will remember, he talked to Gary Johnson (the DJ from that night) about this mythical record that he remembered (or imagined) him playing. To his surprise Gary identified it straight away and it happens to be this rare Spanish joint from Pepe Sanchez Y Su Rock-Band from 1976. A complete beast of a record with so much energy!

### 4. DJ FORMAT & THE SIMONSOUND *The Peruvian*

You don’t get much more lovely a fella and passionate person about music than Matt Ford, aka DJ Format. Matt had kindly left Gareth a copy of his latest limited edition 7” on his work desk as a present. The first time we played it out was at Dom Ore’s ‘Miles Away 1st birthday party’ in London, and from the first drop we knew we had to include it on the next compilation. A monster reinterpretation of Babe Ruth’s B-Boy classic ‘The Mexican’. Trust us, it sounds so, so heavy on a club system.

## THREE

### 1. HAMLET MINASSIAN *Al Elnim*

A massive personal favourite and one which always gets a rapturous response on the dancefloor. This outstanding, heavyweight Armenian / Iranian disco-slammer from 1979 is an infectious party record that never leaves the bag.

### 2. IDRISSA SOUMAORO ET L’ECLIPSE DE L’IJA *Nissodia (Mike D Edit)*

‘Legend’ is praise that is often used lightly, however, Mike D from the Beastie Boys certainly is one in the truest spirit. We are delighted after over 30 years of being involved in music to finally release a project involving such a hip-hop pioneer and icon as Mike. In keeping with the maverick attitude of the Beastie Boys, you don’t always get what you think you will get. Here there isn’t a hip-hop beat, instrumental-funk or hardcore-punk joint in sight, rather an electronic-African club banger. Whether it be a remix / re-edit / rework, it doesn’t matter, what does matter is it works in the clubs and had people jumping on the stage to dance when we debuted it at the Pedro party at the ‘New Morning’ club in Paris back in November 2019. A sensational track and one which leaves a beautiful memory of good times from a night out in Paris.

### 3. TEASPOON NDELU *Sputla*

This is the second track to be included on the Mr Bongo Record Club compilation series from the mighty composer / saxophonist, Teaspoon Ndelu. A feel-good South African disco-jazz funk winner, taken from Teaspoon’s rare ‘Ke Kopa Madulo’ album from 1981 on the ‘Hit Special’ label.

### 4. THE VIKINGS *Mama Matotoya*

Here we have a tasty slice of ‘afro-beat’ from the Kenyan band, The Vikings. We have included the album version taken from their ‘African Songs’ LP, which differs in composition and structure to the 7” re-issued on Fredrik’s amazing ‘Afro7’ record label.

## FOUR

### 1. LINCOLN *Amanhã O Tempo Muda*

This one floored us when we first heard it! A psychedelic, fuzzy Brazilian groove from 1972 that sounds almost like a Thai-psyche-funk nugget. This is probably Dave Bongo’s favourite pick of the bunch on this compilation. An extraordinary record that keeps on giving.

### 2. DON RICARDO *Sonho Lindo*

We love this pure 60’s feel-good samba magic, including awesome joint female / male vocals arrangements from Don Ricardo; a project said to be the work of the greats; Ed Lincoln & Orlandivo. The record was originally released in 1969 on the ‘Caravelle’ label.

### 3. ZÉ ROBERTO *Lotus 72 D (Fast)*

Maybe the most sought after Brazilian ‘compacto’ out there and what an anthem it is! We had a real dilemma here, whether to include the faster sped-up version (the way most people know the track to be) or to include it at its original speed. In the end, we opted for the faster version as it sat better in the flow of the compilation. The aforementioned original speed version can be found on a 7” release (catalogue number MRB7156) on ‘Mr Bongo’.

### 4. WAX MACHINE *Extralude (Wyndham Earl’s more-than-an Interlude Remix)*

What a superb collaboration – Brighton’s psychedelic folk-rock group, Wax Machine, gets remixed by producer, DJ, record collector, ‘Time Spun Records’ label boss, and music don, Andy Wilkins aka Wyndham Earl. Andy has worked with Bonobo, TM Juke, Khruangbin, Rokurokubi, and has an under-the-radar pedigree within the music industry. We also have to thank Andy for introducing us to the band Khruangbin, when back in 2011 during a chance meeting with him on the street, he was clutching a handful of copies of the band’s debut 7”. “You need one of these” was his greeting and being a person of great musical taste who wasn’t going to recommend a record unless it was exceptional, we bought one blind. Andy also contributed a ‘Library Jazz mix’ to the ‘Record Club’ podcast series in 2017. Up until now, this awesome track has only been available on download and we felt it needed to find it’s rightful home on vinyl. Go and check Wax Machine’s beautiful and highly recommended debut album ‘Earhsong Of Silence’ for further listening.

### 5. MATTY *Selfportrait*

You can tell a truly amazing piece of music when it gives you ‘goosebumps’ and that is exactly what ‘Selfportrait’ did to Jane Bongo when we heard it on Pete Norman’s mastering soundsystem at Finyl Tweek studios whilst attending the vinyl cut session. A fitting way to round off the compilation with this beautiful, heartfelt genre-less epic from BADBADNOTGOOD founding member Matthew Tavares. ‘Selfportrait’ was one of the highlights of 2019 since it landed in our inbox from Matthew. It was also selected by Gilles Peterson as a candidate for ‘Track of the Year’ for his Worldwide Awards. An outstanding track from a contemporary great which gets better the more you hear it.

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