

- The 18-piece Afro-Cuban big band's debut album, inspired by the musical melting pot of NYC in the 1950s, but with the punch and power of a whole host of London's best Latin and jazz musicians. Limited red vinyl variant available.

"Remember New Regency Orchestra. See how they grow in the next six months!" - **Gilles Peterson**

"A hepcat big band given a 21st century London twist with new influences, arrangements and attitude." - **Evening Standard**

Announcing the debut album from one of London's most electrifying acts, New Regency Orchestra. An **18-piece Afro-Cuban big band**, inspired by the musical melting pot of NYC in the 1950s, but with the punch and power of a whole host of **London's best Latin and jazz musicians**. Blowing new life into these compositions, the album is a reimagining of some of the finest music from that golden era. From early 1950s **René Hernandez** and **Tito Puente**, through to the 1970s salsa of **Rafael Labasta** and **Orlando Marin**, produced and performed with fresh fire.

NRO is the brainchild of its artistic director, and the man behind **Total Refreshment Centre** and **Church of Sound**, **Lex Blondin**. Through a long-held passion for jazz, Lex discovered the explosive Afro-Cuban rhythms of mid-1940s NYC via the godfather of Afro-Cuban jazz, **Mario Bauzá**. A time when two musical worlds collided in a fusion of creativity and energy, jazz luminaries like **Dizzy Gillespie** and **Charlie Parker** joining forces with Cuban greats like **Machito** and **Chano Pozo**. This vibrant sound was music to dance to and found a home at **The New York Palladium**, a formative space of freedom and expression that was key to the scene's development.

Although dance-focussed in their makeup, those early recordings are not often heard in modern club environments and Lex dreamt of retelling their story with a **contemporary dynamism**. A slice of serendipity followed, as a slot at a new festival opened up and Lex jumped at the chance to make this idea a reality, an 18-piece big band breathing new life into these beloved songs.

Enlisting the expertise of some of the capital's finest talent, Lex and co-captain **Andy Wood**, of **Como No** fame, put together a world-class line-up of talent. Bringing in **Eliane Correa** as musical director and bandleader, a fluid and interchanging 18-piece band was formed.

The album itself is a hand-picked selection of timeless **Afro-Cuban jazz classics**, reimagined with NRO's unbridled energy. It contains ten incredible instrumental tracks including 'Pregon' with its anthemic horn stabs and the addictive head nod bounce of 'Mambo Rama', alongside two scorching vocal numbers in 'Papa Boco' and 'Labasta Llego'. Coupling a heavyweight rhythm section with a wall of horns, they provide a fresh spin on songs from **Tito Puente** and **Chico O'Farrill**, **René Hernandez** through to **Rafael Labasta**.

"Some of the tunes like **Tito Puente's 'Mambo Rama'** and **'Scarlet Mambo'** might sound like they went to a gym as extra drums and bass synth were added to them whilst the tune 'Sahib & Tito' is a mix of **Tito's 'Mambo Buda'** and **Sahib Shihab's 'Nus'**. Our intention is to be both respectful to the innovators and inventors of this incredible music and to pay our dues, but also to add something special from London where the city's new jazz scene connects with its Latin American musicians and the musical influences around us."

This pure collective joy, shared experience and **music you can't help but move to.**

NEW REGENCY ORCHESTRA

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RELEASE DATE

14th JUNE 2024

FORMAT

VINYL LP (BLACK)

VINYL LP (RED)

CD

MRBLP307

7119691299419

MRBLP307R

7119691299518

MRBCD307

7119691299624

FILE UNDER

LATIN JAZZ

AFRO-CUBAN

SALSA

MAMBO

TRACK-LISTING:

1. Pregon
2. Sambaroco
3. Mambo Herd
4. Fiesta Time
5. Para Los Papines
6. Sahib & Tito
7. Scarlet Mambo Hour
8. Papa Boco
9. Labasta Llego
10. Mambo Rama (Lex Blondin Rework)
11. Mango Walk
12. Harlem Jamboree

LISTEN: [ALBUM](#)

