



Jazziz Magazine

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Growing up in North Carolina, Lawson Rollins became enamored of the classical guitar after hearing recordings of Andres Segovia. The former drummer threw himself into the Spanish classical canon and pursued the study of the intricate guitar music, as well as Spanish folk forms and American and Latin jazz. Eventually he synthesized all these influences into a personal style that draws on everything from salsa and flamenco to bossa nova and blues. On his recording *Espirito* (Infinita Records) Rollins continues to refine his cross-cultural blending, as he musically travels from Havana to Cape Town to his own Piedmont region. The rousing opener, "Rumba del Sol," provides a promise of the masterful string work to follow, as the guitarist calls up flamenco dancers and Gypsy caravans. Charlie Bisharat's equally quickstepping violin adds some sizzle to the paella.