

MUSIC WEB EXPRESS



WINTER 2010 RECORD LABEL SPOTLIGHT

INFINITA RECORDS - One of the preeminent acoustic guitarists in America today, **Lawson Rollins** released his CD debut *Infinita* back in 2008 and he follows up in 2010 with the CD release of *Espirito*. In the spirit of *Infinita*, Lawson's latest CD is a full-fledged production featuring a number of gifted players including violinist **Charlie Bisharat**, who's excellent work graced *Infinita* too. When it comes to nylon string neoclassical flamenco work, few can touch Rollins and that practice continues moves forward with *Espirito*. The CD features key contributions from **Randy Tico** (bass), **Dave Bryant** (percussion) as well as further guitar performance from the album's co-producer **Shahin Shahida** (electric guitar) and **Joseph Ehtesham-zadeh** (on slide guitar). Also like *Infinita*, famed Brazilian musicians **Airto Moreira** and **Flora Purim** make some impressive appearances here. Commenting on incorporating such a wide range of colorful World Beat influences into his mix, Rollins adds, 'I love the hybrid quality of World Music and how it allows for cross-cultural communication and exchange. Centuries ago, travel, trade, and migration created new forms of musical expression. The Spanish guitar is a true manifestation of the commingling of cultures with it's ties to the Arabic oud, the Persian tar, even the Indian sitar, so drawing on those connections seems natural to me.' Also in the spirit of *Infinita*, the colorful multi-panel CD packaging and artwork of *Espirito* is outstanding and enhances a thoroughly enjoyable hour or so of instrumental music magic.

~ Robert Silverstein