

## Mp3 Guagua - Pan Frito



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Guagua's original "psychotropical jazz" blends guitar, piano horn melodies with tropical Caribbean Brazilian polyrhythms for a uniquely exuberant and danceable sound. 12 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Latin Jazz, WORLD: World Beat Details: Born at the "Radio Bean," Burlingtons musical incubator/coffee house in the winter of 04, GUAGUA has at long last recorded twelve original Psychotropical tunes and released their debut CD: pan frito. It was a cold Vermont night in January 04 when composers Raph Groten and Geoff Kim invited a handful of local musicians to work out some of their original Cuban, Brazilian, and atmospherically inspired compositions in front of the Radio Bean regulars. No charts, no set lists, not even a Real Book was to be seen that night. All we had to go on was our wide diversity of musical knowledge, some half-formed ideas and our ability to communicate with each other verbally and musically. No one remembers the exact lineup of the original Conjunto Consolador. But after those first few experimental gigs, the remaining ensemble was renamed "Conjunto Guagua" with Raph and Geoff on guitar / tres / cavaquinho, John Thompson-Figueroa on bass, Twa Mercer on timbales, Keith Levenson on congas, and Diane Bense on crucial percussion. The band has since evolved and grown from a half-dozen to a dozen and the name has been compressed to "Guagua," but the oral tradition has continued - nothing is ever written down, but we show up each Tuesday expecting to play something no one has ever heard before. With the addition of the star-studded Psychotropical Horns - Alex Toth on trumpet, Kal Traver on alto sax, and Dominique Gagne on flute - percussionists Gail Hagenbach and Carla Kevorkian and the piano wizardry of Shane Hardiman, the fully-stoked sound of Guagua quickly started attracting attention outside of Radio Bean. We soon got tired of being asked if we had a CD, and seeing the heads shake, and hearing the you-guys-should-record-some-of-this-stuffs, and seeing the Bean patrons holding cell phones up so their significant others could listen in. So we finally did it ... we

laid it down ... here it is ... let us know what you think ... guagua (gwa-gwa, wa-wa) n.(Span.) 1.

(Caribbean) bus or multi-passenger van for public transport. 2. (S.Amer.) baby, infant, toddler. 3. (Cuba) percussion instrument made of hollow bamboo, played with sticks.

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