



**Wayne Wallace**  
**Latin Jazz Quintet**  
*The Rhythm Of Invention*

PATOIS 023

★★★★★

**Moy Eng/Wayne Wallace**  
*The Blue Hour*

PATOIS 026

★★★½

Two disparate and likable recordings feature trombonist Wayne Wallace. *The Rhythm Of Invention* finds his Latin Jazz Quintet deliv-

ering robust arrangements that juxtapose strings and traditional brass- and rhythm-oriented Latin elements. On vocalist Moy Eng's eclectic *The Blue Hour*, Wallace is arranger, co-producer and co-composer. Both efforts are hybrids, seeking to expand upon expected musical vocabulary.

On *Rhythm*, Wallace allows stylistically differing tunes to cohabit easily. He revamps "All The Things You Are," and gives us a mash-up of "So What" and "Softly As In A Morning Sunrise" on a tune called "So Softly." Other highlights include Bix Beiderbecke's "In A Mist," here rebuilt to feature Wallace's soulful horn and Murray Low's florid piano. But the centerpiece of *Rhythm* is its title track, an extended blend of hip-hop, bebop and Latin music that celebrates jazz by incorporating a 1970 recording of Indiana University educator David Baker and a contemporary bookend by Wallace's son-in-law Akida Thomas discussing the genre.

While both albums share musicians, *The Blue Hour* is more diverse, if not as cohesive. Eng's voice, husky and sultry, is wonderful, whether upbeat on "Filthy Gorgeous," insinuating on "You Put A Spell On Him" or rueful on "Thursdays In May," the album's swoon-worthy finale. Part travelogue, part emotional exploration, *The Blue Hour* is a deeply felt

experiment in unconventional musical storytelling. Eng's lyrics often speak to her heritage as a Chinese-American, and Wallace has couched them in sumptuous arrangements that span rock, chamber music and more.

While the pacing could be varied a bit, the ambition and range are unmistakable. The tunes Eng launches with a spoken story would play well in a club, and she knows how to tell her tales of wanderlust, deploying rock, pop and jazz for the desired effect. —Carlo Wolff

**The Rhythm Of Invention:** Vamanos Pa'l Monte; Take 5; All The Things You Are; So Softly; The Rhythm Of Invention; In A Mist; El Arroyo; Se Me Cayó El Veinte; Atardecer Matancero (Evening In Matanzas); Mi Descarga. (61:45)

**Personnel:** Wayne Wallace, Miró Sobrer, Matthew Waterman, Sean Weber, trombone; David Belove, bass; Eugene Chulkov, Niki Fukada, Maria Romero, Daniel Stein, Dayren Santamaria, violin; Mary Fettig, flute, soprano saxophone, alto saxophone, bass clarinet; Erik Jekabson, John Worley, trumpet; Brennan Johns, bass trombone; Kelly Knox, Monica Scott, cello; Masaru Koga, tenor saxophone; Murray Low, piano; Melecio Magdaluyo, baritone saxophone; Colin Douglas, drums, percussion; Michael Spiro, percussion; Edith Szendrey, Rose Wollman, viola; Akida Thomas, vocals.

**The Blue Hour:** Filthy Gorgeous; Sleepless In Paris; You Put A Spell On Him; I Love A Girl Who Parties; Hong Kong; Wild Plum; Magnolia Light; Alpha Girl; A New York Moment; Thursdays In May. (50:24)

**Personnel:** Wayne Wallace, trombone; Moy Eng, vocals; David Belove, Yuki Nagase, Marc Van Wageringen, bass; Eugene Chulkov, Niki Fukada, violin; Deszon Claiborne, Colin Douglas, Akira Tana, drums; Mary Fettig, alto saxophone, flute; Joe Gilman, Murray Low, Frank Martin, piano, keyboard; Erik Jekabson, John Worley, trumpet; Tommy Kessecker, vibraphone; Melecio Magdaluyo, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone; Monica Scott, cello; Michael Spiro, percussion; Rick Vandivier, guitar, dobro; John Wittala, bass.

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