

NEWSLETTER

Nine years have passed since Carlos Santana first played at the Fillmore, seven years since his band captured the hearts of 250,000 listeners at Woodstock. In that time his music has come full circle -- from the simple direct sounds of his early Latin rhythms on "Santana" and "Abraxas" to the more complex and less accessible jazz extrapolations of "Welcome" and "Illuminations" and now, with his last album "Amigos" and his newest "Festival," Carlos Santana has rediscovered his hot-blooded Latin pulse with a vengeance.

Since their historic Woodstock appearance, Santana has become the most popular American band worldwide, consistently playing sold-out tours of the U.S., Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. A recent European tour totaled forty sold-out shows, including 22,000 seats in Paris and a three show total of 24,000 seats in London; the largest halls available in both cities. On December 13, 1976, the BBC taped Santana's Royal Albert Hall performance. The show, which aired on January 22, was the first simulcast ever in England (viewed on BBC TV and heard on BBC radio). Another first was the presentation by CBS Records' Paris office of two gold albums to Carlos Santana. The albums, signifying sales of half a million records each of "Amigos" and "Santana's Greatest Hits" makes Santana the first group ever to receive awards based on the European market alone. "Amigos," which re-established the band on the American top-ten for the first time in almost five years, is also gold in England, Australia, Japan, Germany, France and Spain.



"Festival" shows Carlos Santana's move back from Jazz nouveau experimentation to a more direct music and reflects basic changes in his thinking over the past year. It's a new Santana who says, "The think I really feel strongly about now is simplicity." The original step away from Santana's early jugular rhythms to those of jazzy, off beat, complex rhythms evolved because of Carlos' desire to satisfy his own aspirations as a musician. The music was new and mysterious and he was fascinated by it. But now Carlos says, "If you can do it in 4/4 why not do it 4/4? Make it dance." His new music, first evident on "Amigos" and continued on "Festival" does dance hot and rhythmic. It heralds a new communication between Santana and the audience. And that's what Carlos wants; not always to be an innovator, but to create energy and excitement. "It's the duty of the musician to bring joy."

Once again, the band has gone through personnel changes, and Santana is a new band, with a revitalized sense of purpose. The core and inspiration of the group since its inception, Carlos Santana is, of course, the lead guitarist. Carlos was born in Jalisco, Mexico on July 20, 1947 (Cancer). He has been married for four years and lives in the quiet countryside of Marin County, California. Carlos' basement has been made into a professionally equipped studio containing a 16 track mixing board and it is here and while on tour that Carlos writes much of the material that finds its way onto many of his albums. He plays a custom made Yamaha guitar and specially modified Gibson guitar. He uses Boogie amps and a specially designed footpedal which enables him to achieve both the wah-wah and the long sustains that he has incorporated into his live performances and on his most recent albums; "Amigos" and "Festival." Carlos is an extremely versatile musician and when in his own studio he often puts down many of the tracks himself. He plays drums, congas, bass and a wide variety of hand percussion instruments. Carlos and his wife are both disciples of Sri Chinmoy and they both devote a great deal of their



spare time towards following the path of this quiet and deeply spiritual man. Both Carlos and his wife are vegetarians. They own and operate a well known vegetarian restaurant called Dipti Nivas which is located in San Francisco.

Tom Coster, Santana's keyboard player extraordinaire since 1972, plays a wide variety of synthesizers in addition to piano and organ: amongst them are an Arp String Synthesizer and a Moog Synthesizer. Tom also co-writes much of the band's material with Carlos and they are the best of friends on and off the stage. Tom was born in Detroit, Michigan on August 21, 1941 (Leo). He is married and has two children.

Jose "Chepito" Areas has been with the band since its inception in 1967 with the exception of a one year period during which the band recorded "Amigos." Chepito is a native Nicaraguan and was recently voted the third most popular personality in that country. He is widely regarded as the most exciting Timbale player in the world. In his snakeskin boots and body-hugging clothes, gold teeth flashing, Chepito has always been a visible performer with great stage presence. He was born on July 25, 1946 and is a Leo.

Pablo Tellez, on bass, is a former member of Malo (a Latin based rock group fronted by Carlos' younger brother Jorge). Pablo joined Santana in September of 1976 and has etched out a permanent place for himself on the Santana roster having played on "Festival" and written "Give Me Love" a beautiful ballad on the same album. Watch for Pablo doing his version of the Ali shuffle on Stage. He is also a native Nicaraguan and was born on July 2, 1951 (Cancer).

Raul Rekow, Santana's latest and perhaps greatest conga player is also a former member of Malo. He is a native San Franciscan whose ancestry is a mixture of French and Philippine. He was born on June 10, 1954 (Gemini). Raul's dark and exotic good looks often sends the ladies into a frenzy despite the fact that he is married and has a small son. Raul's speed and strength on the congas must be seen to be believed.



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Graham Lear, on drums, hails from Toronto, Ontario and comes to Santana after a two year stint with Gino Vanelli. Graham, frankly, knocks the hell out of his drum kit and drives the band with a fury unmatched since the youthful energetic days of Michael Shrieve. His hard driving style causes Graham to lose almost 6 pounds during his two hours on stage with the Santana group. He was born in Plymouth, England on July 24, 1949 (Leo).

Greg Walker belts out the lead vocals with style and flair adding yet another new dimension to a band that is known for its instrumentals. Greg was born and raised in Southern California and is the band's ladies man. While singing Santana's new ballad "Give Me Love" a young lady in the audience yelled out "your place or mine?" He has been with Santana since the recording of "Amigos" but for personal reasons chose not to record "Festival" with the group. He was born on January 30, 1952 (Aquarius) and is quite single.

Santana began an extensive tour of the United States on January 25th which will conclude in early April in the northeast portion of the country. During this time they will play almost every major American city and we expect to see a lot of people dancing and humming the tuneful bars of their latest single "Let The Children Play" which was just released at the time of this newsletter.

Bill Graham, Santana's manager, agrees with Carlos in his assessment that this new group is the best, most energy packed Santana to date. We hope you think so too!

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PLEASE NOTE:

For a complete list of old and NEW items available through the Fan Club, see attached order form.

Not only do we have a NEW t- shirt to offer you, but also a Poster from the popular "AMIGOS" album.