

QUARTER STREET  
SALSA

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DEBUT ALBUM: FANTASIA

From the first few notes, it sounds like the real thing. Piano and bass riff hard. Percussion enters. ¡Oiga Papa! Listen up! The trombones come in thick and strong. Fantasia, the first song on Quarter Street's self-titled LP is authentic 'salsa dura' from the old school. Hard salsa. It's not shiny, it's not clean and poppy or unduly jazzy. It's tough, it's gritty and ballsy, and in terms of musicianship, writing and production, it straight up cooks.

Sergio Botero's voice is pure street Salsero, a worthy inheritor of the tradition defined by Hector Lavoe and Rubén Blades. Conguero Luis Poblete, and brothers Cesar and Cristian Saavedra on baby bass and timbales round out the core group of Quarter Street. Like many Latinoamerican migrants to Australia, their parents fled the various coups and revolutions of the 70s and 80s, raising their children to the sounds of the Spanish language superstars of the era. Cuban brass virtuoso Lazaro Numa, recently arrived in Melbourne, adds a taste of Havana to the underlying mix of classic Puerto Rico / New York styles. The boys grew up salsa and now they've brought together an impressive unit of Melbourne's finest Latin and Jazz musicians together to light up turntables and dancefloors worldwide.

There's been a lot of rough and real analog funk, soul and Afro vinyl material released in the last couple of decades, from the Dap-Kings and Antibalas in New York to the Poets of Rhythm in Germany. So far, few have flown the flag for the revival of hard-out analog era Latin music. Quarter Street are doing it. Salsa dura was born on the mean streets of New York in the 1970s, now it's back. Quarter street take their cues from the giants: Eddie Palmieri, Ray Barreto and Willie Colon and the seminal record labels Fania and Tico records and charge straight ahead at the 21st century. The time is right.

Quarter Street's self-titled LP will be available worldwide through HopeStreet Recordings, FatBeats, Kudos, and Rocket distribution on Friday 14th August 2015.