

GUAGUA



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psychotropical jazz

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) Burlington Band GUAGUA Releases 2nd CD

Following up their critically-acclaimed debut CD, "pan frito," Burlington based psychotropical jazz band **Guagua** has just released another batch of 12 original tunes. The new CD, entitled "**Psychotropical**," was recorded last winter in Burlington. On Friday, February 1st, at Parima Thai Restaurant in Burlington, Guagua will be celebrating the arrival of the new CD at their Psychotropical CD Release Party.

Guagua was born at the Radio Bean, a beloved musical incubator/coffee house in Burlington, Vermont. It was a cold Tuesday night in January '04 when composers Raph Groten and Geoff Kim invited what would become the core of Guagua to work out some of their original Cuban, Brazilian, and metaphysically-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 they had to go on was their wide diversity of musical knowledge, some half-formed ideas and an ability to communicate with each other rhythmically and musically.

They started calling their music "psychotropical jazz," for the euphoric effect of guitar, piano and horn melodies layered over tropical African, Caribbean, and Brazilian polyrhythms. The fully-stoked sound of Guagua soon attracted attention outside of Radio Bean, and the band quickly tired of being asked if they had a CD, of 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. Their debut CD, "pan frito", was released in August 2006.

"**pan frito**" was called the "local jazz album of the year" by Seven Days, and was among the most frequently suggested recordings on VPR's annual music show in 2006. Now Guagua has recorded another dozen originals with influences from around the hemisphere. **Psychotropical** includes the Cuban flavored tracks "Purple Oranges," "Newgalloo," "Son Nuevo", and "Bolero Cha" and the Brazilian-scented "Not Your Mama's Samba" and "FKB", as well as multicultural numbers like the Brazilian/Cuban flip flopper "Psychotropical," the mixed-metric salsa number "En Siete", the Druid-Santeria cocktail "Celtic Bembe," the uncategorizable "KoreanFilm Society" and even the band's vocal debut in "Afro Kimchi ."

The lineup for the Psychotropical CD Release Party includes Geoff Kim on guitar & tres, John Thompson-Figueroa on bass, Twa Mercer on timbales, Keith Levenson on congas, Shane Hardiman on piano, Dominique Gagne on flute and Carla Kevorkian and Gail Hagenbach on crucial percussion. Plus, back from Boston for one night only: the other two original members of the Psychotropical Horns - Alex Toth on trumpet, and Kal Traver on alto sax. Also returning for the celebration, co-founder Raph Groten on cavaquinho & guitar. Bruce McKenzie, who laid down the timbale tracks on most of the new disc, will be sitting in, and current Guagua saxophonista Andy Allen is listed as probable.

Guagua's live shows go well beyond the studio cuts, with an intercontinental dynamic range, a 30-plus original song repertoire and never-to-be-repeated arrangements and solos. If you're in the mood for Latin jazz that is original and joyous, Guagua is a band you'll want to hear again and again.