

"Guitar Sniper"

by Juanito Camacho for La Jiribilla Newspaper, 2002

On the Cuban stage, Elmer Ferrer is the jazz/rock fusion guitar sniper of our time; a busy freelancer who puts his instrument at the service of whatever musical cause catches his fancy, he's actually a part of Habana Ensemble and a restless artist that will soon regal us with his first solo album. Far gone are his days as a part of the duo Teryla together with guitarist Norberto Rodríguez, recreating jazz tunes with an acoustic bent. With Teryla he backed up the singer Vivian García (ex Arte Vivo) from where he joined the group Estado de Ánimo; next came a collaboration with the keyboardist Roberto Carcassés, the drummer Ruy López-Nussa and the bassist Descemer Bueno, working in a freeform that incorporated jazz, rock, ethnic, Cuban and South American elements. Estado de Ánimo emphasized his brilliance, but it was in his supporting role for figures like Santiago Feliú, Gema & Pável, X Alfonso and Boris Larramendi where he scored his greatest, most memorable live performances.

The good news is that Elmer Ferrer is about to release his first solo album, *Metrópolis*, on the Unicornio label. The disc was recorded at the Abdala Studios between December 2001 and January 2002. It is an instrumental work coproduced by Elmer Ferrer and Eduardo Ramos that traverses the terrain of modern jazz fusion, electric jazz (incorporating jazz rock influences), African music, AfroCuban rhythms and even includes an experimental string section called Isabela, inspired by his young daughter. Tracks include Demonios del día, Metrópolis, Mía and E-mail, for a total of ten songs. Among the musicians enlisted are the drummer Ruy López Nussa and Oliver Valdés, the bassists Jorge Sagua and Juan Pablo Domíngue, and the keyboardists Roberto Carcassés and Alexis Bosh. For now, we only have to wait for the actual release of this work from a Cuban musician on the move, who's time is well spent amassing an impressive resume.