



## BAND BIO

[www.zaratepollace.com](http://www.zaratepollace.com)

Abel Zarate co-wrote the hit song "Suavecito" while in Malo, which continues to be heard in movies and recordings by artists from all over the world ... He wrote "Latin Lady," which put Latin-music legend Willie Bobo back on the jazz charts ... and now, for the Zarate Pollace Project (ZPP), Abel has teamed up with composer/keyboardist Michelle Pollace to combine his signature soulful, catchy guitar melodies with infectious Latin and Brazilian grooves to create truly unique contemporary jazz sound with a positive, uplifting message. ZPP gains new fans with each show played, but the music also appeals to many fans of Abel's past work as well.

### MUSIC & LIVE SHOW

ZPP plays live as a 4- to 6-piece band, delivering songs from the band's well-received debut CD "Soul Redemption," as well as additional music slated to appear on its next CD. The band has been very well received live and has played numerous festivals in the Bay Area, including the finale concert of the Yerba Buena Gardens Latin Jazz Festival in San Francisco.

### ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL MUSICIANS

**Abel Zarate** (guitar) has played the Hollywood Bowl, Madison Square Garden, and Montreux and Newport Jazz Festivals. He co-wrote the international hit song "Suavecito" while in Malo and also wrote "Latin Lady," for Latin-music legend Willie Bobo. Abel appears in the books *Voices of Latin Rock* (Ron Sansoe, Jim McCarthy), *The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock & Roll* (Holly George-Warren, Patricia Romanowski, and Jon Pareles), and *Country Joe and Me* (Ron Cabral). He has been awarded a BMI Pop Awards Citation of Achievement for having co-written one of the most-played pop songs of 1999. Abel is endorsed by Fuchs Audio Technology, U.S. maker of high-end boutique guitar amplification.

**Michelle Pollace** (keyboards) boasts diverse credits, including orchestra member in Lou Harrison's internationally renowned Gamelan Si Betty (Indonesian orchestra), keyboardist in a band led by Santana's original percussionist/arranger, and co-leader of a blues-rock band with jam-band Kingfish alum. She is trained in classical, jazz, and Latin piano and has co-authored a music-education book.

### REVIEWS & TESTIMONIALS

"If you enjoy Metheny, Ritenour, Scofield, Carlton, and Benson, then you'll love what Abel's up to musically these days. His solo lines are silky and fluid with purpose. Michelle Pollace is a dream keyboardist ... what a treat she is to hear." — *Oscar Moreno, Moonflower Café gig review*

"Zarate, Pollace and their friends get it. They rise above sheer technical mastery to exhibit true compassion and beauty with every note they play." — *Joe Ross, Amazon.com CD review*

"Your sound is honest and real ..." — *audience comment*

"Your music is original yet familiar at the same time ... Just the right mix of romanticism and fire." — *audience comment*

### CONTACT

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**Santa Cruz Art on the Wharf, July 15, 2007**  
by Oscar Moreno, on Moonflower Cafe  
([moonflowercafe.com](http://moonflowercafe.com))

*For musicians, the greatest joy is playing a show and knowing you are connecting with an audience — especially when you're playing original music. So it was a very pleasant surprise when we made a new fan at one particular gig, who liked us enough that he submitted a positive review of our show on a music-focused web forum.*

Against the backdrop of the gorgeous Monterey Bay, I was fortunate today to witness a performance by the Zarate Pollace Project on the Santa Cruz Wharf adjacent to the Beach and Boardwalk for the annual Art and Wine Festival. It was 70 degrees and the sky and ocean appeared seamlessly deep blue in the distance. I feel fortunate this performance was just minutes from my home.

Abel Zarate and his musical partner Michelle Pollace play global jazz with a decided South American bent. Today they were supported by the meticulous Ray Uribes on bass and the excellent Edwin Santos on drums. I made the assumption that he is John Santos' brother, the well-known SF/Bay Area percussionist, but in truth he is a cousin. Edwin can play a mean batucada and solo in 6/8 ferociously. He and Abel go back to playing with Coke and Pete Escovedo back in the day. Edwin and Ray locked in tight for the entire three-hour set, handling all manner of samba and then some.

Michelle Pollace is a dream keyboardist for any guitarist and/or horn player, but stands on her own just fine. Lovely chord voicings, pulsating montunos, along with superb fusion chops on a moment's notice; what a treat she is to hear.

Abel has obviously travelled a long way from his Malo days. If you enjoy Metheny, Ritenour, Scofield, Carlton, and Benson, then you'll love what he's up to musically these days. His solo lines are silky and fluid with purpose. One tune, "Innocencia," was dedicated to Carlos Santana. Think in the Flor D'Luna, Europa vein, etc., but with more chord changes in a cha-cha.

This ensemble would sit in just fine with the GRP label and most definitely should be included in the next Voices of Latin Rock Benefit. If anyone has credentials and deserves inclusion it clearly is Abel Zarate. Check out the website, [www.zaratepollace.com](http://www.zaratepollace.com) for more info and order the CD, Soul Redemption, while you're at it.

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## CD REVIEW

[www.zaratepollace.com](http://www.zaratepollace.com)

by Jose Ross; on Amazon.com, CD Baby (earning 5 stars), other music websites

*This prolific music reviewer heard our track "Tristeza, Alegria, y la Luz" on an Oasis sampler CD, and requested a copy of our full-length CD for review. So we offered it up, and this is what he had to say:*

With an all-original set of smooth jazz, Abel Zarate and Michelle Pollace's musical dreams have flown. The songs on "Soul Redemption" present refined jazz with powerful rhythmic intensity and evocative melodies that make emotional statements. Zarate's guitar and Pollace's keyboard take us on a magical sojourn. Recorded in the San Francisco area, the project also features John Santos (percussion), Paul van Wageningen (drums), Curtis Ohlson (bass), Anthony Blea (violin, viola) and co-producer Greg Landau (loops). A guitar master, Abel Zarate is particularly featured as he paints a brilliant aural palette from new age acoustic jazz to Latin and funk. For a slight change, it might have been nice to hear more acoustic settings or a few vocals incorporated for one or two tracks like "Chanson Afrique." However, the vision for this professional product was clearly to provide a exhilarating and stimulating breezy instrumental jaunt from start to finish.

Guitarist Abel Zarate has achieved international success with the Latin rock band Malo, and he has been featured in the book, "Voices of Latin Rock." Michelle Pollace's global musical interests resulted in her studying jazz, classical and Latin piano, as well as Indonesian gamelan. Her co-written music education book and CD called "Musicreation" has been well received. Leader of the Machete Ensemble, percussionist John Santos is a master of Afro Latin rhythms. Drummer Paul van Wageningen and Abel Zarate go back to the 1970s when they played together in an R&B band, The Force. Throughout this project, bassist Curtis Ohlson conveys great power and strength on the low end of the sound spectrum. Ohlson toured with Ray Charles' band for six years. String wizard Anthony Blea has played classical, salsa, rock, and he currently heads up his group, Anthony Blea y Su Charanga. A two-time Grammy nominee, Greg Landau has produced many CDs, film soundtracks, and videos.

On "Soul Redemption," Zarate and Pollace lead us through a inspiring musical journey of life itself, and the joy of their uplifting music is largely in its picturesque natural and earthy elements. Some song titles give an indication of how the musicians' instinct and intuition create gripping depictions of moonlight, autumn, ghosts, and other apparitions. "Apples, Kisses and Dreams," for example, is beaming with happiness, pleasure and bliss. The stellar accompanists also take nature's rhythms and allow us to connect with the music. Zarate and Pollace create circular patterns from within their soul, and they then use their compositions to illuminate the surroundings as they paint with their sonic palattes. "Soul Redemption" delivers some creative goods from ethereal textures to energetic cosmic wavefiles. So, in a sense, the album's redemption is a type of musical fulfillment or deliverance. Carlos Santana once said, "whether you are [playing] in the bar, the church, the strip joint, or the Himalayas, the first duty of music is to complement and enhance life." I'd say that Zarate, Pollace and their friends get it. They rise above sheer technical mastery to exhibit true compassion and beauty with every note they play.

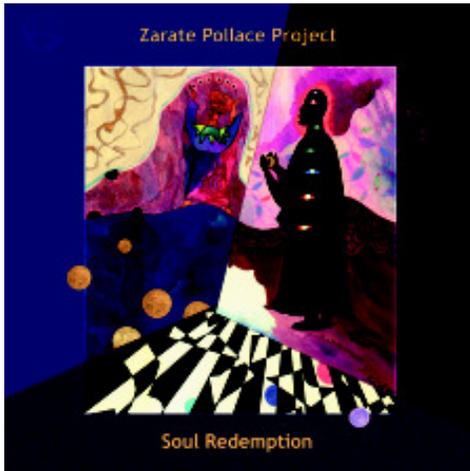
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# PRODUCT ONE SHEET

Artist: Zarate Pollace Project  
Name of Release: Soul Redemption  
Catalog #: ZPP001  
UPC Bar Code: 7 83707 06120 7  
File Under: Latin Jazz/Smooth Jazz/Adult Contemporary



## CD Description

“Soul Redemption” is the debut effort by songwriting/performing duo **Abel Zarate** (guitar) and **Michelle Pollace** (keyboards).

Produced with the help of Grammy-nominated producer **Greg Landau**, “Soul Redemption” features some of the San Francisco Bay Area’s brightest musical talents: **John Santos** (Machete Ensemble, Cachao, Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, others) on percussion; **Paul van Wageningen** (Stan Getz, Machete Ensemble, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Pete Escovedo, Ray Obiedo, others) on drums; **Curtis Ohlson** (Ray Charles, Buddy Rich, Pete Escovedo, Ray Obiedo, others) on bass; and **Anthony Blea** (San Francisco Symphony, Charanga 76, Machete Ensemble, Omar Sosa, Boz Scaggs, others) on violin and viola.

The CD was mastered by **John Greenham** at Paul Stubblebine Mastering, in HDCD format for superb audio fidelity. The cover features the vibrant African American folk art of **Mari Hall**.

“Soul Redemption” features ten new, all-original compositions by Abel and Michelle, well-crafted and varied songs brought together into a cohesive sound they call “global jazz,” a combination of alluring shades of Afro-Brazilian and Latin jazz, with a funk flair. The duo’s original songs are melodic and rich in texture, taking listeners on a journey, often into unexpected territory ... but we think listeners will be pleasantly surprised with their destination.

## What listeners are saying

“Abel Zarate displays his guitar artistry and songwriting ability ... one can hear shades of ... Carlos Antonio Jobim, Gabor Szabo, and Wes Montgomery. Michelle’s keyboard and writing style is a great stylistic match for [Abel’s] talents.” – *Mark Guerrero, Latin-music reviewer/historian, markguerrero.net*

“If you like jazz with an international flavor, you will enjoy this CD very much. It has an upbeat yet relaxed tempo. Latin flavors sizzle throughout, with a touch of African and South American.” – *artist Mari Hall, newsletter review*

“Unique and inspiring” – *listener*

## Radio Stations playing (sampling)

89.5 KPOO (SF), 90.5 KKUP (Cupertino), 91.1 KCSM (San Mateo), 94.1/88.1 KPFA/KPFC (Berkeley/Fresno), 89.1 CHUO (Ottawa, CANADA), alooga.de (German cable radio)

## Tracks

1. Moonlight Tango
2. Apples, Kisses, & Dreams
3. Autumn Song
4. Baiao Zuayla, Part I
5. Baiao Zuayla, Part II
6. Alba Negra
7. Tristeza, Alegria, y la Luz
8. Vorticity
9. Chanson Afrique
10. In Love with Ghosts

## Contact

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