Jay Soto - Long Time Coming (2005)

1. Live It Up 2. Caught in a Moment 3. Long Time Coming 4. Song for Mary-Cruz 5. Reflections 6. Never Let You Go 7. Remember the Night 8. Miss My Cabana 9. Closer to You 10. Black Orpheus Musicians: Jay Soto - Drum Programming, Guitar, Keyboards, Mastering, Remixing Michael Lington - Saxophone Jesse McGuire - Trumpet Freddie Sanchez - Bass

Long Time Coming, the debut solo album from guitarist Jay Soto, takes aspects of a relatively wide array of training and puts them together for a somewhat varied fare. A turn in a Christian band or two gives Soto some basic hymnal-type melodies, a turn in a Latin band gives him some simple flairs, and a round as a finalist in the Guitarmageddon competition has given him some practice in straightforward, virtuosic speed passages. Nearly the whole of the album is filled with Soto-penned originals, though the classic "Black Orpheus" closes out the set. The performance is nice, with hints of the nylon-stringed masters. The jazz isn't exactly experimental, but instead follows a more contemporary track, almost to smooth jazz, but not quite breaking that fated designation fully. Worth a listen or two. ---Adam Greenberg, Rovi

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