

JAZZIZ®

LATIN By Mark Holstien

Shades of Jade is a collective of many of Southern California's most experienced Latin jazz musicians devoted to the celebration of the style as it was defined in the 1960's by such pioneering groups as those of the late Cal Tjader and Mongo Santamaria. With Cuba's mambo, cha-cha, and 6/8 Afro rhythms as a base, the group explores such jazz standards as Benny Golson's "Killer Joe" and Wayne Shorter's "Footprints" on *From the Edge* (Absolute Pitch Records). Leader Bill Laster, the timbale player, is supported by such highly regarded exponents of the style as flutist Artie Webb and bassist Al McKibbon. Tenor saxophonist Dick Mitchell is a particularly vital component in the group's mix. Laster and company have captured the bubbly, jazz-tinged essence that attracted fans to the idiom when it was born out of bop and rumba half a century ago.



**JULY 1995 ISSUE
VOLUME 12**