

Los Refrescos

LOS REFRESCOS, or the Mystique of Joyful Revelry

1. refreshment. A cold drink / A spread of drinks and sweets

Let's imagine a sunlit terrace. A scorching summer. Let's imagine that certain hour of the day when the perfect temperature and light begin to settle over everything and every body. On one side is Argenis, La Garra [The Claw]. On the other, Martin, El Garfio [The Hook]. It is neither a fight nor a duel. Each one searches for his own rhythm and experiments with his instruments. They get ready and launch themselves in. Locked in, connected. It is impossible to remain seated. They already warn us in one of their tracks: The Hook and The Claw cast off the moorings, be careful girl, these two are something to fear...

Los Refrescos are here to make you dance. Where do they come from? Both are Latin. They are European. In the end, they are from almost everywhere. They are musicians. Also producers. They are a point of reference. But above all, they are lovers of revelry.

2. to refresh. To moderate or lessen the heat / To renew / To regain strength, vigor, or breath

They crossed paths in New York in 1996. It was the era of Gonzalo Martínez and his thinking congas, of which both were architects. After traveling the world—studios, clubs, discos—El Garfio and La Garra finally decided, to our joy and delight, to bring forward the Los Refrescos project, the one they had envisioned from the moment they met and recognized each other as kindred spirits. Because, as they put it: "An intuitive development of new musical strategies is possible, as well as an effective way of working with other musicians." They tell us that The World Is Heating Up, as their debut album is called. And they warn us: "After humanity's failure in the use and control of the forces of the universe, which have turned against us, it is urgent that we nourish ourselves with another kind of energy." And their music confirms to all of us dancing on this side that they are coming not merely to renew a musical style or to expand the latinotronic playlists—a genre in formation that, paradoxically, they themselves initiated—but rather to refresh a way of being on this planet.

3. fresh. [From the Germanic frisk: new, agile] Newly made, newly harvested / Rested / Shameless

Freshly harvested and shameless. That is what these thirteen tracks are like. Overflowing with insolence and cheekiness [it wasn't a motorcycle, it wasn't a photograph, what I wanted was to touch your...]. But also sprinkled with wisdom [better to be deceived than to live in distrust]. With a very special mystique—joyful, spirited, intoxicating. With a hyper-concentrated energy that cannot leave anyone untouched.

That is what this happy gathering of two of the most celebrated artists in today's electronic music brings. An alliance—or rather, a brotherhood—slow-cooked through years of conversations and encounters, and finally brought to life in Martín's studio in France, very close to Geneva, by a lake. They have already been working together for two years, recording, and a fortunate few have already been able to see and hear them in Geneva, Zurich, Bern, Oslo, Berlin, and Paris.

4. re-fresh. Multiply all of the above by two. The duo. La Garra and El Garfio. "A duo walking the boundary between the serious and the absurd, between pure pleasure and the sacrifice demanded by the pleasure of living," as they explain it themselves.

Martin Schopf, aka Dandy Jack, and Argenis Brito are the minds behind this generator of sonic particles, the mysterious Sonic-Bosons. If we add together their trajectories, there is hardly an important electronic musician they have not collaborated with. Nor is there a club, festival, rooftop, terrace, or after-hours party where they have not played. Nor an electro label they have not touched; nor a rhythm they have not experimented with.

Here they stayed with the Latin sound. With the spirit of timeless songs [look at the little girl, the way she moves her waist...], but renewed, blended, and reactivated with an extraordinary psychotronic energy.

"If we want our species to survive, if we set out to find meaning in life, if we want to save the world and every being that inhabits it, we must learn to give and receive this universal energy, to prove that love conquers all, transcends all, and makes all things possible," they propose.

Or, put more briefly: Refresh Yourself or Die.

Lola Larra

