

**Alex Bellegarde Quartet** *Caminando (Justin Time)*Geoff Chapman, The Toronto Star, August 17<sup>th</sup> 2006

"For this Montreal quartet the album is reward for its winning the Grand Prize award at last year's Montreal jazzfest and its good. Bassist Bellegarde, extremely active in his city base, dedicates it to legendary bassman Skip Bey and plays a forceful, versatile role on the 10 tunes he composed. There's strong Cuban references, with pianist Yoël Diaz and guest conguero Orlando Lavielle interacting smartly with lively alto saxist Erik Hove and drummer Yvon Plouffe. The result is supple and usually tasteful as the group capers through an energized terrain where only infrequently the collegiate atmosphere dissipates. Especially intriguing tracks are "Native", "Brown's Groove" and "A Blues or Not!."

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