

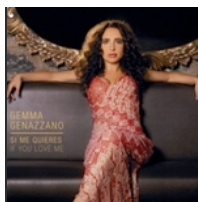


Si Mi Quieres / If You Love Me

Gemma Genazzano | Self Published

By [Robert M. Sutton](#)

Unlike much of today's Latin output, Gemma Genazzano's *Si Mi Quieres / If You Love Me* owes less to contemporary R&B and dance music and more to '70s funk and soul. It's an important distinction to make as, in the hands of the wrong production outfit, Genazzano could have slipped into the slush pile, her sultry, playful voice wasted with cookie-cutter arrangements. But Genazzano avoids the processed cheese completely, instead singing over a classy collection of light funk and ice-cool vocal jazz, much of it enveloped in a Latin context.



The throbbing bass lines of "Enamorada" are delivered with sweat and infectious energy; however, Genazzano retains an easygoing vibe. Her voice evolves into stages of dreamy transcendence on this track, as if the music is carrying her into another zone. Nevertheless, she never goes overboard. Her grip on the rhythmic pulse of the song stays solid even when her feet leave the ground. "Take Me Away" is appropriately titled. Again, Genazzano's fetchingly sweet vocals evoke feelings of summer escapism as David Inniss' inviting bass seduces the senses. Swirling strings and exhilarating horns color the skies of the title track.

The erotic "Way, Way Down" is the album's crown jewel. Reminiscent of the English R&B artist Sade, with its club-ready jazz-pop intro, becomes Genazzano's equivalent of Donna Summer's bedroom epic, "I Feel Love." Radiating skin-deep sensuality, "Way, Way Down" is where body and soul merge in the form of music. Lyrically the kind of connection it describes can be interpreted in an emotional or physical manner; however, there is no denying how this song feels, which is hotter than the Arizona sun in July. It's a scorcher.

Si Mi Quieres/If You Love Me is a record that can easily crossover between Latin and jazz audiences, leaving both yearning for another fix. Surprisingly, the addictive qualities of the album are not just due to Genazzano's bewitching personality but also to the timeless appeal of her band mates' work.

Track Listing: Enamorada; Take Me Away; Si Me Quieres; Interlude; Way, Way Down; Talk to Me; Ay Papi Interlude; Secretos; Show Me Who You Are; Baila Para Mi.

Personnel: Marlon Saunders: backing vocals, production; Joe Scott: piano, Rhodes; Greg Dayton: guitars; Herb Maitland: guitars; David Inniss: bass; Eric Brown: drums; Francisco Mela: drums, percussion (4, 7); Mark Gross: saxophones, flutes; Ravi Best: trumpets; Kevin Lewis: trumpets; David Eggar: cello; Biti Strauchn: backing vocals; Arif St. Michael: backing vocals.

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