

Backstage at the Hi-Hat Club, Rosie observes Rita (on her sax) and Cora (on the ukulele) jamming and teaching Ernie Mae how to do a Latin rhythm.

CORA

*(to Ernie Mae, ad lib)*

Más en the backbeat.

ERNIE MAE

Like this?

CORA

Sí, sí, not bad.

They play some more.

CORA

Dale más fuerte.

ERNIE MAE

Huh?

CORA

Hit it harder.

Rosie approaches.

ROSIE

Hey.

CORA

Hey Rosie.

ROSIE

Can I play?

CORA

Sorry, we don't have a chart, we're just jamming.

ROSIE

But that's great, that's what I want to learn. To improvise, you know, take off and ride.

CORA

Ay ay ay.

ROSIE

Will you teach me?

CORA

It's a feeling, Rosie, it's a hard thing to teach.

ROSIE

Not you, too.

Rosie turns away.

CORA

Ay caramba. Rosie, wait. We'll try. Grab your horn.

ROSIE

Ok!

Rosie gets her trumpet.

CORA

How about we start with something we have written down, like "Stompin' the Trace". Rita, you be the Velma impersonator. Ernie Mae and I will be the rhythm section. Let's start at the head. Rosie, you first, give it to me straight.

Rosie plays a phrase.

CORA

Now Rita.

Rita takes the next phrase.

CORA

*(to Rosie)*

Listen to how she takes off on that. Hear how she just pulls it out of the music, and it spins out and soars over the backing. Your turn.

Rosie plays a phrase, copying Rita's improvising and adding a few of her own notes this time.

CORA

Ok, ok, but don't just listen to her notes, listen to her voice. Listen to how she talks through her horn.

Rita plays another phrase.

CORA

Now talk back to her.

Rosie answers Rita, taking off, playing more of her own variations, though still a little tight. Cora and Ernie Mae look at each other and nod.

CORA

That's it, that's it. Now listen to how Rita rides, she's not a slave to the beat, she's the master.

Rita plays another phrase, really driving the tempo. Ernie Mae starts doubling up her hits with the sticks. Rosie plays again, getting closer.

CORA

Now move it, push over the tempo, fill in some beats, make it seem like you're dancing on top of the rhythm.

Rosie really loosens up, starts to groove. She and Rita have a hot exchange.

CORA

Sigue Rosie! Eso! Asi!