

## Mariachi Madness

### Los Trovadores de America sizzle at Agave

By Dan Barry

**I** get so stoked when I see Latin music doing well in Hartford. Few venues support it, so when I see an especially good band like **los Trovadores de America**, it makes me feel like music by and for the people of Hartford might finally be getting a chance to thrive.

Mariachi may just be the secret weapon. Agave (100 Allyn St.) hosts los Trovadores every Monday from 7-10 p.m. It was

one of bandleader

Eduardo Rocha's

originals, "Noche de

Carnival", that really

shook the place. The



**The dark, downtempo song centered on an extended solo by violinist Chris Payne. His notes spilled gracefully over huge chord changes, he used dissonant notes to evoke a feeling of sweet desperation - and he even threw in an Indian raga lick for good measure. It was the best solo I've seen in months.**



dark, downtempo song centered on an extended solo by violinist Chris Payne. His notes spilled gracefully over huge chord changes, he used dissonant notes to evoke a feeling of sweet desperation - and he even threw in an Indian raga lick for good measure. It was the best solo I've seen in months.

Los Trovadores are also to be applauded for their sensitive use of amplification. Agave isn't a huge bar, and between its size and its hard walls, it would easily be overpowered by a four-piece playing at full blast. Instead, Hank Zorn left his trumpet without a mic, and Rocha strictly handled rhythm duties with his guitar. This way, Payne, Zorn, and accordionist Jaime Chiluisa had free run of the melody - and filled the space perfectly with the help of a tiny P.A. For their finale, they ran down a traditional Mexican tune as fast and demanding as anything from the bebop or grindcore songbooks. Dazzling.