

Walking into Tiny's the night before Thanksgiving held a very nice surprise... The Sanchez Musical Family Reunion, plus 100 of their closest friends. Given that this Wednesday night could go either way (most families stay at home right before Thanksgiving...right?) The place was packed and festive, the music happening, and there was a feeling in the air that this was not a normal night at Tiny's. The first clue was the Chief himself, decked out in a tux. Then the band, complete with about 5 horn players, looked larger than usual. But there was clearly folks in Tiny's I hadn't seen before, and it was soon evident that the Thanksgiving holiday had brought the Sanchez family together, and they took it all to Tiny's. So this review is not so much about the band and the music as it's a report on a happy night of music in Santa Fe. And happy it was, from the straight ahead jazz with his brother David on trombone and a couple of sisters singing and playing trumpet, to Chief's Dad getting out the guitar for a Spanish folk song that the entire family sang, including the Mom! I mean who needs Thanksgiving at our own homes when it's this good at Tiny's?

Some of the tunes played that night were right out of the Ellington book, like "In a Mellow Tone". The Chief is at his best on a song like this, growling into the mic, or using the mute to great effect. The piano chair for the night was held down by the very versatile Dan Lizdas from Taos, who I had played with the night before at Terry's Lounge at El Farol. Mark Clark got up to play on the drums for a bit (hey, some of HIS family was there too...he got applause just for walking in!), and the young and swinging Colin Deuble was on bass. But it was really a night for Chief, his girlfriend and recent fiancée (yes, he popped the question right there in front of God and everybody...), and the family. The rest of us were happy to share in the music and joy and kick off the Holiday season with big warm smiles on our faces...and our ears were pretty happy too.....