

The LABJACD explosion began in September when they released their debut EP at a sold-out show at Melbourne's Evelyn Hotel. The CD from the latin hiphop band has been long awaited by fans who have been coming to their shows over the past year.

LABJACD (pronounced *lab-jacked*), who describe themselves as somewhere between Ozomatli and Medeski, Martin & Wood, take their influences from a variety of old sources: "There's traditional music from South and Central America, old-school hiphop beats plus a decent dose of fun," said trumpet player Tristan Ludowyk. Their tunes are sung in a mixture of English and Spanish, reflecting the Chilean heritage of the 3 vocalists.

The brand-new disc has had a warm reception so far. "We never expected so many people to turn out" said Ludowyk. "There was such a great atmosphere at the launch, with over 450 people. Even the people we had to turn away were buying CDs!" The week after it was released it came in at #2 on Beat's Top 10 Chart.

Indie radio stations have already picked up the record but it is also appearing in more unusual places such as SBS Radio's Spanish language programme, where the band made a guest appearance this week. "This is a CD that is just as at home on a Saturday night hiphop show as it is on an ethnic radio programme" said bassist Julian Langdon.

Local street-press Beat Magazine described LABJACD's music as "funky latino beats, and bitten off, yet cruisy-as-hell lyrics, all making for a sweet groove-a-thon of mammoth proportions. Makes me want to grow a pencil moustache and finally prove my swarthy Latin charm."

The band has a lot of dates on the horizon, including the Earthcore Global Carnival in November where they will be playing along side the likes of Regurgitator and Propellerheads, and the Woodford Folk Festival.

LABJACD are not resting on their laurels after releasing their first CD. They plan to record a full-length album with the support of John Butler's innovation the JB Seed grant, the inaugural round of which they were awarded this year.

More information can be found at the band's website www.labjacd.com.