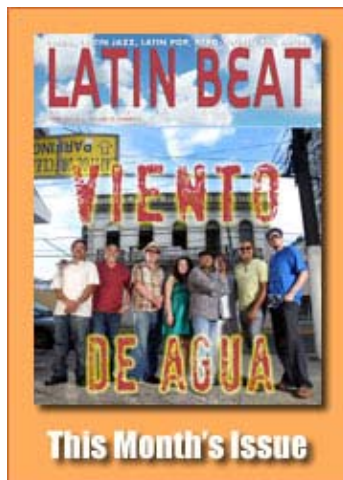




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JUNE/JULY 2010 ISSUE

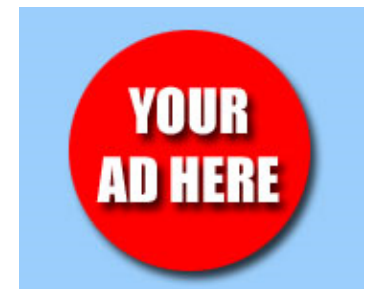
Columns ⊕ ⊕ ⊕

QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangual

Summertime in Los Angeles is outdoor concerts and festival season spanning from Labor Day Weekend to the end of September. Hosting many of the events are the Hollywood Bowl in Hollywood, The Greek Theatre and The Autry in Griffith Park, the Dorothy Collins Brown Amphitheater at LACMA, L.A. Farmers Market on Third Street, and The Ford Amphitheater in Hollywood. Check your local newspapers for summer events in your cities and communities.

Headliners this year in Los Angeles include El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico at the annual Día de San Juan Festival on June 6th at the Frank G. Bonelli Park in San Dimas; Pupi y Los Que Son Son on June 11th at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City; The Scott Martin Latin-Soul Band featuring Juliana Muñoz on June 12th at LACMA; Chick Corea, Tiempo Libre, and The Escovedo Family, among many others at the Playboy Jazz Festival on June 12th & 13th at the Hollywood Bowl; Silvio Rodriguez on June 17th at the Gibson Amphitheater in City Walk; Louie Cruz Beltran on June 14th at the L.A. Farmers Market; Bobby Matos Latin Jazz Band on June 24th at the L.A. Farmers Market; Orquesta Opa Opa on June 26 at LACMA; Tito Rojas and Sonora Carruseles on June 27th at the 5th Annual Festival & Carnaval Colombiano in Whittier Narrows Regional Park; Huey Dunbar on June 27 at the House of Blues in Anaheim; Susie Hansen Latin Band on July 1st at The Autry in Griffith Park; Madinga Afro-Peruvian Ensemble on July 3rd at LACMA; Yari Moré on July 9th at The Autry in Griffith Park; Poncho Sánchez and his Latin Jazz Band on



Steve Pouchie
Watch Ur Wallet
[Windows Media Quicktime](#)

José Luis Morán
La Rumba del Barrio

[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

3D Ritmo de Vida
Que Siga La Rumba
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Somos Son
Bilongo
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

The Estrada Brothers
Mr. Ray
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Manny Silvera
Bassed in America
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Bobby Matos
Cuchy Frito Man
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Chembo Corniel
Buena Gente
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Maña
Tranquilito
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

Santiago Ceron
Besos de Hada
[Windows Media](#)

July 13th at the Hollywood and Highland Center; Orquesta Charangoa on July 15th at The Autry in Griffith Park; Oddy y sus Bachateros on July 16th at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City; and the Latin Brothers and Los Hermanos Lebron on July 18th at the Colombian Festival in the Pico Rivera Sports Arena.

The Oxnard Salsa Festival will be held on July 24th and 25th featuring Orquesta La Palabra, The Janeen Puente Orchestra, and Angel Lebron y su Sabor Latino on Saturday, July 24th, and The Susie Hansen Latin Band, Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca, and Orquesta Tabaco y Ron on Sunday, July 25th. For more information, on this event visit www.oxnardsalsafestival.com.

We congratulate the Susie Hansen Latin Band for the release of their latest CD production *Representante de la Salsa* featuring the hardest working female in the L.A. salsa scene — Susie Hansen in the company of George Balmaseda, Joe Rotondi, René Camacho, Joey De León, Tiki Pasillas, David Stout and Jimmy Branly, among others.

Conjunto Costazul also has a recording simply titled *Live in Los Angeles*, 2009, featuring live sets of the band performing around town.

In addition, enjoying new releases around town are The Scott Martin Latin-Soul Band (*Only Trust Your Heart*) and the Latin-funk group Spellbound (*United Front*).

Support your local musicians and their venues as well as all the arts. Peace.



A BITE FROM THE APPLE

By Vicki Solá

A native of Lajas, Puerto Rico, the singer/songwriter **Iris González (pictured above)** arrived in New York (along with her husband Amador) in 1983. Throughout her childhood, González envisioned writing traditional Puerto Rican music by utilizing the cuatro guitar.

While working as an assistant teacher in the Bronx, she continued to pursue her musical vision, in an effort to realize her dreams. The recent passing of her husband inspired her to record an album comprised entirely of her own compositions, in his honor. The result is *Mi Corazón Está Sangrando*, consisting of boleros and guarachas.

One of my personal favorites is *El Regalito*. We'll be hearing more from González — she is currently at work on a second CD of original material.



[Quicktime](#)

Johnny Polanco y Su Conjunto Amistad

El Gusto de Mi Salsa

[Windows Media](#)

[Quicktime](#)

Siempre Salsa All Stars

Salsa Para Siempre

[Windows Media](#)

[Quicktime](#)

Future laser luster... Conjunto Imagen's leader, Ernie Acevedo, is excited about a new album he's producing, geared for dancers and expected to be released in early June — Jenny Colón's *Ahora Sí*. Acevedo describes said effort as "hardcore salsa, with all the ingredients of Conjunto Imagen, but with a female on vocals." Rafael de Jesús, William Duval, Charlie García, Sol Colón, and Awilda Morales are featured as guests.

DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month": *Agua Limpia Todo*, by Tito Puente, Jr.

The New York fans of **Grupo Folklorico y Experimental Nuevayorkino** (GFEN) received a double treat this year, according to my friend Keith Thomas, who characterizes the GFEN's March 20th line-up at Hostos Center for the Arts — a show designed to pay tribute to Arsenio Rodríguez — as "awesome." The GFEN cast included Andy González (bass), Jerry González (trumpet and congas), Nelson González (tres), Oscar Hernández (piano), Eddy Zervigón (flute), Guido González (trumpet), Reynaldo Jorge (trombone), Eddie Venegas (trombone and violin), Charlie Santiago (timbal), Gene Golden, Tony Rosa, and René López (percussion), Pedro Martínez and Abraham Rodríguez (percussion and vocals), and Jorge Maldonado (vocals). Among the special guests were Alfredivito Valdés (piano), Israel Berrios (guitar and vocals), Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros (trumpet), and the latter's cousin, Sergio Armenteros (trumpet).

"To me," says Thomas, "the high point of the night was not just about Arsenio, but also about Graciela, who at the time of the concert was gravely ill. Israel Berrios shone once again in his featured number *La Vida Es Un Sueño*, a favorite of Graciela's, which he dedicated to her memory."

Grupo Folklorico's other gig took place at La Fonda Boricua — located in the heart of "El Barrio" (Spanish Harlem) — in a more intimate setting. "Missing from the line-up were Jerry González, Sergio Armenteros, Charlie Santiago, and Oscar Hernández", says Thomas, "but it was an incredible night of music, with the high point being the batá drums of Pedro Martínez". These performances were recorded and may be released on CD at a latter date. There's a demand for this group, so be on the look-out for them in your area!

Filmmaker **Bette Wanderman's** "Mambo City: A New York Latin Music Story," opened at the Havana Film Festival/NYC on April 16th. The film follows Grupo Latin Vibe, (particularly the group's co-leader/conguero/vocalist Tito Rivera and his singing wife, Awilda Santiago), during performances at Manhattan's Parkside Lounge, on the Lower East Side, where the ensemble had a loyal Friday-night following for four years. As explained by Wanderman: the music arouses the dancers as much as the dancers inspire the musicians.

This past April 30th, Grammy Award winner Dave Valentín celebrated his birthday (and the 30th anniversary of his musical career) at La Fonda Boricua. The flutist's quintet featured Bill O'Connell, Lincoln Goines, Richie Flores, and Richie Morales.

Around town... The Friday-night "After-Work Party" at El Morocco now presents live bands,

such as Ray de la Paz, Orquesta Broadway, and Libre (kept very much alive, after Manny Oquendo's death, by the surviving co-founder Andy González).

On June 25th, flutist **Andrea Brachfeld's** Latin jazz group, Phoenix Rising — also comprised of Bill O'Connell (piano), Andy Eulau (bass) and Diego López (drums)-performs at NJPAC's Prudential Hall Lobby, as part of the Pre-Concert Prelude series.

The **West Gate Lounge's** June roster includes Orquesta Broadway, Julio Castro & Orquesta La Masacre, La Epoca, and on the 19th, a tribute to late promoter Mike Palleja, with DJ Henry Knowles.

New York Latin percussionist **Steven Kroon** (whose most recent production, *El Más Allá*, became a favorite of my radio listeners) has reissued his first CD, *In My Path*. It includes special guests Liza Fisher, David Sánchez, and the late Jon Lucien, plus a never-released bonus track — *Magic #32*, showcasing saxophonist Lennie Pickett. Kroon has a bunch of performances scheduled: The Saratoga Jazz Festival (June 26th); Parlor Jazz, in Brooklyn (July 10th); The Baltimore Museum of Art's Wurtzburger Sculpture Garden (July 31st); a WBGO Latin Jazz Cruise (August 12th), and "A Tribute to Mongo Santamaría" at Dix Hills Center for the Performing Arts (October 10th).
¡Hasta la próxima!



LB MUSIC UPDATE

By **Nelson Rodríguez**

Salsa recordings have been pouring in from all corners of the world, as they continue to be produced at an extraordinary pace during the current year.

Congratulations to **José Rizo** for his 20th anniversary as a broadcaster radio with KJAZZ, and for and his new band (Mongorama), which is finishing its recording debut, featuring Danilo Lozano, Ramón Banda, Oscar Hernández, Justo Almario, René Camacho, Joey de



León and many more.

Trombonist **Alberto Barros** (El Titán de la Salsa), one of Colombia's biggest producers/arrangers/bandleaders, continues to produce gems, including his two latest — *Tributo a La Salsa Colombiana 1* and *Tributo a La Salsa Colombiana 2*, which contain the greatest salsa hits by such Colombian acts as Niche, Guayacán, Sonora Carruseles, Los Titanes (Barros' first big success), Fruko y Sus Tesos, Grupo Galé, and Joe Arroyo, featuring most of their original vocalists. Club DJs will love the medleys!

Orquesta Guayacán's (pictured above) latest CD, *Bueno y Mas*, swings from start to finish, and should generate hits for the rest of the year! DJs will love *Carro de Fuego*, *Mujer de Carne y Hueso*, *La Más Bella* and *Como Una Hoguera*.

One of the hottest new CDs comes from New Jersey — **Papo Ortega's Cubanosón** offers the CD *Rumba Nueva*, delivering one hit after another. Cubanosón's original tracks and tasty covers are ensured to offer one of this year's best productions! Listen to the opening original, *A Bailar con Cubanosón*, to get a taste of what follows: Seven originals and various covers, including one of my favorite Néstor Torres compositions (*Voulez-Vous Danser*), as well as *Tributo a Rodríguez*, Roberto Rodríguez Jr's homage to his dad (Roberto Rodríguez Sr., who was a key member of the Ray Barretto's band in the 1970s). Look for additional hot performances on *Cantemos a Puerto Rico*, *La Fiesta*, *Cubanízate*, *Preguntame Cómo Estoy*, *La Gallinita* and *Loco, Loco, Loco*.

El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico won a Grammy for a recording I felt was not one of its best, but its most recent CD, *Sin Salsa No Hay Paraiso*, is a throwback to those golden days when they should have really gotten the Grammy. The guys swing on this new production, which includes such tracks as *Sin Salsa No Hay Paraiso*, *El Problema Está en el Coco*, *La Espuma y La Ola*, *El Comejen* (for fans of *Arroz Con Habichuela*), *A Mi Me Gusta Mi Pueblo*, *Colombia Tierra Querida*, and a new version of the classic *Achilipú*.

Percussionist **Giovanni Rodríguez** released the awesome debut titled *El Movimiento (The Movement)*, in alliance with reedman Rahsaan Jelani Barber and trumpeter Imer Santiago, and with the supporting cast comprised of pianist Paul Horton, guitarist Adam Agati, drummers Marcus Hill and Derrek Phillips, and bassist Dan Eubanks. Look for the tracks *El Señor Está Contigo*, *Mi Descarga*, *Javanet Fanfare*, *Brooklyn En La Casa*, *Acuérdate* and *Hypnosis*.

Vampi Soul has released another outstanding compilation: *The Afro Sound of Colombia, Vol. 1*, containing an excellent booklet (that documents the history of Colombia's Fuentes label) and including such acts as Fruko y sus Tesos, AfroSound (the psychedelic Colombian answer to what was happening in Perú and Bolivia, in terms of the creative changes applied to the cumbia), Sexteto Miramar, Wganda Kemba and Michi Sarmiento, among others. You will notice the heavy influences from the 1970s New York salsa sound, and particularly from Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz.

For some years **Victoria Sanabria** has dedicated her efforts to explore the folkloric criollo (creole) sounds of Puerto Rico, but in her latest CD, *Criollo con Salsa*, she takes a huge step in expanding her radio airplay worldwide in what should be regarded as one of this year's best surprises.

The Los Angeles-based vocalist **Rubén Esteva** presents a surprising debut, *Realidad*, containing the tunes *Caballero de Sabor*, *Salsa Pa' Los Triunfadores* and *Como El Coquí*, among others.

A native of Iceland, **Tomas R. Einarsson** is an excellent jazz bassist, and his latest CD, *Live* — comprised of recordings made in Cuba (2006), Moscow (2006) and the 2009 Reykjavik Jazz Festival — can also be found on a four-CD box set that also features his prior recordings — *Kúbanska* (2002), *Havana* (2003) and *Romm Tomm Tomm* (2006).

Vocalist **Cristian González**, fronting his band La Bohemia, presents the debut recording titled *Mil Exitos*, which contains the smoking *Guaguancó*, along with the sure-winner *El Vocalista*, and other tracks potentially available for commercial radio, if and only commercial radio was willing to try alternative programming!



DESDE BORINQUEN

Por **Elmer González**

Fotos ©**Julio Costoso**

SE DESTACAN ARTISTAS DEL POP INTERNACIONAL Y LA TROVA. Los meses de abril y mayo se caracterizaron por la escasez de actividades bailables y por la presentación de varios artistas internacionales en salas de conciertos. Después del evento multitudinario del Día Nacional de la Salsa en el mes de marzo, la salsa pareció caer en un letargo. Sin embargo, el pop internacional tuvo una presencia destacada que atrajo a miles de sus entusiastas al Coliseo de Puerto Rico (CPR) y al Centro de Bellas Artes de Santurce (CBA), entre otros escenarios.

Entre los eventos más importantes de abril podemos incluir al recital del ex-Beatle **Paul McCartney** y a la duodécima edición de los Premios Billboard de la Música Latina. La presentación de McCartney se llevó a cabo el 5 de abril en el CRP y generó un interés inmenso. Fue su primera visita a Puerto Rico y por más de dos horas, sin interrupción alguna, el cantautor de 67 años mostró una contagiosa energía musical que conquistó a los miles de seguidores que pagaron varios cientos de dólares por cada



asiento con tal de ver y escuchar a dicha leyenda del pop británico.

Otro espectáculo que cautivó la atención local fue la presentación internacional de los Premios Billboard que se efectuó en Puerto Rico el 29 de abril y congregó a los artistas latinos de mayor fama y renombre de la actualidad.

El mes de mayo se inició con los recitales de la baladista ponceña **Ednita Nazario (en la foto de arriba)**. Con tres funciones vendidas en su totalidad en el CPR durante los días 7, 8 y 9 de mayo, Ednita revalidó una vez más su popularidad entre los jóvenes y adultos de Puerto Rico. Allí inició su gira internacional denominada "Soy", la cual la llevará este año a varias ciudades de los Estados Unidos y Centroamérica.

En el mismo escenario también compareció el cantautor español **Joaquín Sabina**. El intérprete de Pastillas para no dormir tiene poco apoyo en la radio local, pero cuenta con muchos seguidores que admiran su humor, picardía, sarcasmo y formas de abordar la temática diversa de sus composiciones. Con una voz ronca que refleja los excesos característicos a través de gran parte sus seis décadas de existencia bohemia, Sabina cautivó a los presentes con su concierto del 15 de mayo que forma parte de su gira "Vinagre y rosas".

Por otro lado, dos artistas cubanos — **Francisco "Pancho" Céspedes** y Carlos Varela — se presentaron durante el mismo fin de semana pero en lugares distintos. El 14 de mayo, Céspedes ofreció un concierto gratuito en el Anfiteatro del Paseo de las Artes en Caguas. Fue una velada bajo la lluvia que entusiasmó al público, evidentemente embrujado por las exitosas composiciones románticas del cantautor antillano, tales como "¿Dónde está la vida?", "¿Qué hago contigo?" y su emblemática "Vida loca".

Se logró crear un ambiente informal de espontaneidad bohemia cuando Céspedes invitó al escenario a sus colegas boricuas Andy Montañez, Glen Monroig, Cucco Peña y Lucesito Benítez, quienes cantaron boleros de renombre internacional.

Por su parte, Carlos Varela protagonizó una velada más íntima en el Centro de Bellas Artes. Con poco público y una gran entrega, su debut en Puerto Rico del 16 de mayo incluyó varias de sus canciones contestatarias, las cuales forman parte del movimiento musical conocido en la mayor de las Antillas como la "novísima trova".



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