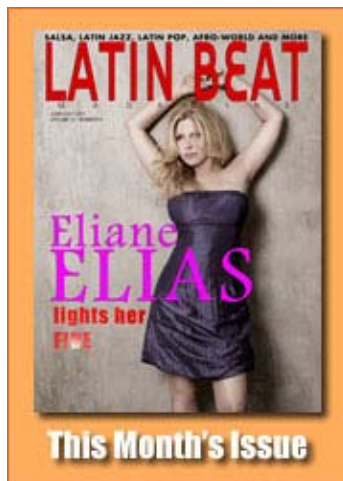




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## Columns ⊕ ⊕ ⊕

JUNE/JULY 2011 ISSUE

### QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangual

Summer in Los Angeles equates to outdoors and indoor music festivals and concerts in the comfort of some of the best weather conditions of our planet. From Downtown L.A. to Orange County, Angelinos get ready to party this summer to the rhythm of the Latin beat: Local favorite Susie Hansen Latin Band will be performing in the city of Fontana at the recently restored Center Stage Theater on June 2nd. On June 10th, the Susie Hansen Latin Band returns to the Radisson Whittier Hotel in the city of Whittier for a night of "Dancing Under the Stars!" The band will also be performing at the Palos Verdes Street Fair in Palos Verdes on Sunday, June 12th. This event is free to the public with lots of other live music, carnival rides, arts and crafts and family activities.

Songstress Candi Sosa, who performs every Friday and Saturday nights at Havana Mania Restaurant in Redondo Beach, will be performing at Vitelo's in Studio City on Monday, June 6th when "Bolero meets Jazz" (a live recording session).

**Orquesta Opa Opa** led by trumpeter Oswaldo Bernand performs at the **Antigua Latin Bistro** in the city of Montebello on June 3rd, the city of Downey "Concert in the Park" on July 13th, and the city of La Puente "Summer Concert Series" on July 27th at La Puente Park. The band is also scheduled to perform at this year's L.A. County Fair on September 23 and 24, 2011.



**Vanelis**  
Como Lo Extraño  
**Windows Media**  
**Quicktime**

**Nayibe**  
Borinquen

**Windows Media  
Quicktime**

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**Luis González**  
Spain

**Windows Media  
Quicktime**

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**Rolando Sanchez**  
Vamonos De Fiesta

**Windows Media  
Quicktime**

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**Steve Pouchie**  
Watch Ur Wallet

**Windows Media  
Quicktime**

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**Somos Son**  
Bilongo

**Windows Media  
Quicktime**

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**The Estrada Brothers**  
Mr. Ray

**Windows Media  
Quicktime**

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**Manny Silvera**  
Bassed in America

**Windows Media  
Quicktime**

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**Bobby Matos**  
Cuchy Frito Man

**Windows Media  
Quicktime**

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**Chembo Corniel**  
Buena Gente

**Windows Media**

**The 18th Annual Oxnard Salsa Festival** presented by the Oxnard Downtowners takes place on July 30 & 31, 2011 in Downtown, Oxnard. Come celebrate all things salsa –food, music, and dance all weekend long. Scheduled bands to perform include an electrifying blend of salsa, Latin pop, and Cuban rhythms led by Orquesta Charangoa , Angel Lebron y su Sabor Latino, and Orquesta Son Mayor on July 30 from 11 am to 7 pm. Headliners on Sunday, July 31 include Phil Robinson and Sonora Borinqueña, Janeen Puente Orchestra, and Orquesta Tabaco y Ron from 11 a.m to 7 p.m. If you think your salsa has what it takes to be the best, enter the “2011 Great Oxnard Salsa Challenge” The Oxnard Salsa Festival is a free community event. For more information and details, visit [www.oxnardsalsafestival.com](http://www.oxnardsalsafestival.com).

Salsa and Latin jazz icon **Eddie Palmieri** and his orchestra and Cuban pop singer/songwriter Carlos Varela are among this year’s performers at the 29th Playboy Jazz Festival to be held June 11 & 12 at the Hollywood Bowl in Hollywood. Tickets are available at the Hollywood Bowl box office and major ticket vendors.

**The Autry National Center** museum announced its annual Summer of Salsa Sizzling Nights 2011. This popular outdoor dance party for all ages features some of the best salsa bands from Los Angeles on Thursday nights from July 7 until September 1st, from 6 p.m to 9 p.m. Great live salsa music plus hot-off-the grill food, ice-cold drinks and spirits, open museum galleries, a separate children’s dance floor, dance lessons and more for an admission of only \$10 for adults and \$6 for children and seniors. It all takes place in the casual setting of the Autry plaza of the Autry National Center museum at Griffith Park in Los Angeles. The 2011 Sizzling Summer Nights line-up includes: Octavio Figueroa and La Combinación Salsa Band (7/7/11)  
Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad (7/14/11)  
Orquesta Son Mayor (7/21/11)  
Yari Moré y su Orquesta (7/28/11)  
Ricardo Lemvo and Makina Loca (8/4/11)  
Susie Hansen Latin Band (8/11/11)  
Chino Espinoza y Los Dueños del Son (8/18/11)  
Oscar Hernández and The L.A. All Stars (8/25/11)  
Conjunto Costazul (9/01/11)  
For more information about the Autry and this event, visit [www.TheAutry.org](http://www.TheAutry.org).

Music events at the **Ford Amphitheatre Summer 2011 Season** run from June 5th to October 2, 2011 at the landmark outdoor 1,200 seats amphitheatre in Hollywood. Some of this season’s headliners include “Concierto Charanga” (June 5) exploring the roots of Cuban rhythms; “Concierto el Rey II” (July 9) honors the late Mexican composer José Alfredo Jimenez, who propelled the ranchera genre into mainstream; “Noche de Pasion” (August 5) featuring 100 years of Spanish guitar styles; “Fiesta Argentina” (August 20) recognizing the contributions of women to Argentine culture from the tango to the folkloric music of the Pampas; the Third Annual LAVida Music Festival (September 17) featuring the Mariachi Divas; Chalo Eduardo and the Brazilian Beat; and Louie Cruz Beltran Latin Jazz Ensemble, and Fiesta Mexicana IX (September 24) featuring Mariachi Monumental, Trio Casablanca, Banda Futura and vocalists Roberto Romo, Cindy Luna and Belinda Gomez. For a complete schedule of events, tickets, and more information, visit

**Quicktime****Maña**

Tranquilito

**Windows Media****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**[www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org) or call (323) 461-3673.

Support all the arts, your local artists and their venues.

**A BITE FROM THE APPLE****By Vicki Solá**

Veteran vocalist/composer/bandleader Henry Fiol's latest CD, *Salsa Subterránea* (Corazón, 2011), was recorded in New York with his conjunto; and a previous one, *De Cachete* (Corazón, 2008), was recorded in Cali with Colombian musicians. Both are available as free downloads from his website, <http://www.henryfiol.com/>.

"I've done this," states Fiol, "to express my gratitude to my fans for their support through the years. Unlike many artists who have fallen by the wayside, thanks to my fans' loyalty, I'm still out here, actively involved in producing and performing the music".

In addition, he cites the problem of poor distribution, which has affected his music for many years: "By putting my albums up on the Internet, I'm enabling anyone, in any part of the world, to have direct access to my music."

"Because of pirating, unauthorized downloads, and the advent of the MP3, it is difficult to sell CDs nowadays", concludes Fiol. "I'd rather just give it away and get my investment back from the trips and performances that the free downloads generate."

Fiol, whose career began nearly four decades ago as a conguero and coro singer, continues to travel and perform internationally, especially in Latin America and Europe, where he is considered a "classic" exponent of Afro-Latin music.



Laser luster...Vocalist/percussionist Choco Orta has released the danceable CD *Choco Swing* (Chocolocochón Bolsillo Productions). It includes the Orta original titled *Homenaje a Las Soneras*, as a tribute to the women who have been instrumental in salsa history. She is accompanied by Willie Sotelo (musical direction/piano), William "Kachiro" Thompson



(congas), Rafael "Tito" de Gracia (bongó/timbal), Pedro Pérez (bass), Guillermo Calderón (trumpet), Moisés Noguera (baritone sax), Jerry Rivas, Henry Santiago and Rei Peña

(coros).



**Carrying the torch forward...** I remain highly impressed with **Grupo Arcano**, whose members are representative of the younger generation committed to the perpetuation of "salsa dura". After having the opportunity to check out their four-track demo, I wish them well-deserved success in their quest to produce a full-length CD.

Founded in 2008 by George Vélez, Jr. (musical direction/alto saxophone), Danny Díaz (bass), and Ray Torres (lead vocals), the band draws much of its influence from El Gran Combo, Héctor Lavoe, Richie Ray, Eddie Torres' Mambo Kings Orchestra and The Spanish Harlem Orchestra.

"Grupo Arcano," says Vélez, "combines the best from a rich tradition, as well as the hottest trends. We play hits from past decades, as well as explosive original compositions." And they do pack

dance floors. More information is available at <http://www.grupoarcano.com/>.

**Upcoming video...** Ray Cruz and his group Cruz Control, which had a loyal Tuesday-night following at Bayamo's for years, has filmed a baseball music video based on Tito Puente's Cuando Te Vea. It is a "surreal game", according to Cruz, in which the band portrays a baseball team that plays against The Brooklyn Bandits, while dancers mambo around the bases to music performed in the dugout. It takes place at Coney Island's MCU Park, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones.

**DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month":** Choco Orta's *Lo Que No Sirve Se Bota*.

**Around town...** The Marinero Night Club (formerly known "El Faro", and located in West New York, New Jersey) showcases bands like Cubanosón and SonSublime on Saturday nights, and Chico Alvarez & Los Armoniosos every Sunday evening.

The, Lehman Center for the Arts presents El Gran Combo and David Cedeño's orchestra on June 10th.

Gilberto Santa Rosa plays Irving Plaza on June 14th.

Cedeño's orchestra also performs on June 25th at The Whiskey Café, in Lyndhurst, New Jersey.

The West Gate Lounge's roster includes the following acts: Junior Rivera's orchestra (June 4th), Héctor Tricoche & Raulín Rosendo (June 11th), Orquesta Broadway (June 18th), SonSublime (July 2nd), Charlie Cajares (July 9th), Swing Sabroso (July 16th), and a Midsummer Salsa Festival, featuring live and recorded music, dance and percussion workshops, a film presentation and art exhibit, and salsa lessons (July 29th), and The Mambo Legends (July 30th).

**Speaking of festivals...** 3D Ritmo de Vida shares the stage with Aaron Neville, Chaka Khan, and Eddie Palmieri, among others, at the *West Oak Lane Jazz and Arts Festival* (June 19th).

*The Sabor Latin Festival* (June 17th, 18th, & 19th) celebrates the cultural contributions of the Latino communities of Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley with a parade, a Father's Day program, and performances by Cubanosón, Arturo Sandoval, and Tito Puente, Jr., at Bethlehem's ArtsQuest Center and SteelStacks Arts and Cultural Campus.

Known as "New York's Cuban Orchestra", Cubanosón performs at the Air Products Town Square on June 19th, at 4:00 P.M.

¡Hasta la próxima!



**LATIN BEAT MUSIC UPDATE ONLINE**

## By Nelson Rodríguez

As long as I can remember, back in my younger years, the summer was the time when certain successful radio tunes became the super hits...We'd be out from school, and our summer vacation was spent listening to radio all day...at the parks, the beaches, at the corner or on the stoops of our house or apartment building. Today things may be different but the hits are still playing, and what is scheduled up to come out during the next six months will make this a memorable year. Latin Beat Magazine will keep you informed, as we have for the past 20 years!

This month we begin with vocalist **Willy Torres'** CD *Hardcore*, featuring his NYC Salsa Project and a special guest trombonist from Chicago, Angel Meléndez. Willy represents the future of Latin music and his spellbinding CD includes the tracks *Nuevo Ritmo Omelenkó*, *Se Formó La Rumba*, *El Crítico*, *Juana Peña*, and *Prepárate (Llegó el Sabor)*, along with some more commercial tunes that would do extremely well (if given the chance) in commercial radio.

Consider a bassoon player doing Latin jazz: **Daniel Smith** has done just that on his CD *Bassoon Goes Latin Jazz*, where he interprets standards by Lee Morgan (*Mr. Kenyatta*), Mongo Santamaría (*Comecandela*), Charlie Parker (*Yardbird Suite*), Dizzy Gillespie (*Manteca*), Herbie Hancock (*Watermelon Man*), and Luiz Bonfá (*Black Orpheus*), resulting in a unique flavor that surprisingly works very well.

The long awaited CD by one of the West Coast's best bands is now available for the world to enjoy: **Lucky Mambo 7** (Angelo Rodríguez, George Balmaseda, Joey de León, Joe Rotondi, René Camacho, Criag Fundiga, Víctor Muñiz) has released *Chapter 1*, with nine great tracks that are all enormous hits in Los Angeles clubs. The vibes feel (a la Joe Cuba) never gets old and Lucky Mambo 7's new material has set the pace for others to follow.

**Gonzalo Rubalcaba**, one of the greatest pianists of all times, remains one of today's living musical icons, after mesmerizing fans worldwide for many years. On his latest recording, *Fé* (Faith), he delivers a spiritual piano solo session recorded in May 2010.

We were under the impression that we had heard everything ever recorded by master bassist **Cachao**, but such assumption was erroneous, as demonstrated by the recent release of his final recording: *Cachao— The Last Mambo (La Leyenda En Vivo)*. Due to its historical nature, this 2-CD set is a true gem that must be regarded as a "must-have" by any serious collector. It was recorded live at the Adrienne Arsht Center's Ziff Opera House in Miami, Florida, on September 22, 2007. Each CD shows a distinctive side of the great bass player and features contributions by Cándido (who just turned 90), Willy Chirino, Issac Delgado, Orestes Vilató, Jimmy Bosch, Hansel Martínez, Lucrecia, Federico Britos (musical director), Edwin Bonilla, Gerardo Peña, Dave Valentín, Alfredo Valdés Jr., Tata Palau and many more.

Certain recent reissues are bound to delight many Latin music fans. This is particularly true of the reissue of the classic LP *Típica 73 Orchestra* (1974), featuring such great numbers as *Mañoño*, *Acere Boncó*, *No Volveré*, *Tintorera*, *Aprende*, and *Descarga 73*. Check out the Latin soul tune

*What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life*, sung by trumpeter René Lopez and considered as the CD's hidden gem.

The Vampisoul label has reissued on a single CD two original **Cándido** LPs (*Brujerías de Cándido* and *Cándido's Latin McGuffa's Dust*), with the backing of Tito Puente's orchestra.

**Eddie Benítez** took the Latin rock world by surprise with his guitar and band (Nébula) in the mid-to-late '70s and you can now own the original Benítez & Nébula recordings, *Night Life* and *Essence of Life*, both produced by Louie Ramírez, and now reissued within a single CD by Vampisoul. For the recording, the band added Nicky Marrero and Frankie Malabe on percussion, Nancy O'Neil on lead vocals and Rubén Blades on coro (vocal chorus) to give the CD a bigger jolt, and it worked.

The Tampa-based band **A&C La Banda** was founded by Armando Olivero and Carlo Kural, who join forces with vocalist Luis Angel Pérez to present their CD *En Blanco y Negro*. This CD has a nice selection of songs that can become radio hits, such as *Sí Tú No Estás*, *Sé Que Eres Mía*, *Imaginación*, *Por Amor* and *Regálame*.

The past decade has seen an enormous increase in lady musicians and vocalists that are excelling in the fields of salsa and Latin jazz, but the larger contingent of female talent has come from the Latin jazz world. One such artist is vocalist **Jessie Márquez**, whose CD *All I See Is Sky* combines her gracious voice with Brazilian, Cuban and pop flavors.





PHOTO BY TOM ERHLICH

The **John Santos Sextet** never fails to thrill its fans. The Sextet has released another gem: *Filosofía Caribeña, Vol. 1*, featuring Saúl Sierra, John Calloway, Melecio Magdaluyo, David Flores and Marco Díaz, along with some special guests. What I love about this CD is how Santos combines various U.S. Creole and Afro-Latin influences, demonstrating their historical connection.

A Floridian band that never ceases to impress is the multi-Grammy nominated **Tiempo Libre**, which now offers its best CD to date, telling the fascinating story of how Tiempo Libre's Cuban-born members used to sneak to the rooftops of their houses in their native island to put up wire antennas in order to catch what little music they could receive from Miami.



## DESDE BORINQUEN

**Por: Elmer González**

**Fotos: Miguel Rojas**

**PR HEINEKEN JAZZ FEST 2011.** Durante los días 2 al 5 de junio se presentará la edición número 21 del Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Fest (PRHJF) en el Anfiteatro Tito Puente en San Juan.

Este año el mismo será dedicado a los ya fenecidos **Chano Pozo y Dizzy Gillespie**. Dos figuras relacionadas con los orígenes del jazz latino en la década de 1940.

Tanto Gillespie (trompetista) como Pozo (conguero) serán recordados y homenajeados durante la velada del sábado 4 de junio con la participación de la banda del tamborero Poncho Sánchez con el trompetista Terence Blanchard como solista invitado.

Además se presentarán los siguientes artistas según informó Luis Álvarez productor del evento:

### **Jueves 2 de junio**

-Richie Flores Sextet

-Monty Alexander: Harlem-Kingston Express Jazz Meets Jamaica

### **Viernes 3 de junio**

-Ted Nash Quintet

-Ramsey Lewis Trio

-Stanley Clark Band

### **Sábado 4 de junio**

-Agustín Barreto Fusion Quartet

-Dee Dee Bridgewater: To Billy With Love A Celebration of "Lady Day"



-Homenaje a Chano Pozo y Dizzy Gillespie

**Domingo 5 de junio**

-Berklee in Puerto Rico Student Band

-Ninety Miles : David Sánchez, Stefon Harris and Christian Scott

-Humberto Ramírez Big Band: Homenaje a Sinatra, Machito, Puente y Rodríguez



Como preámbulo al PRHJF los organizadores del festival vienen presentando el evento “Ventana al Jazz Fest” el último domingo de cada mes. Un espacio exquisito al aire libre frente al mar en el área turística de El Condado en San Juan. Allí se presentan grupos y artistas locales de jazz en unas tardes bien concurridas con entrada gratis para el público.



**MONUMENTO A TITE CURET ALONSO.** Durante varios años, los residentes del Viejo San Juan se acostumbraron a ver al compositor Tite Curet Alonso (1926-2003) sentarse a diario en un banco de la Plaza de Armas y conversar con los parroquianos mientras saboreaba un café. Esa estampa se rememora hoy con una estatua tamaño real que se develó el pasado 13 de marzo en la Plaza de Armas. La misma lleva la inscripción “Mirando pa’ lejos”, la respuesta que usualmente Curet daba en ese lugar ante la pregunta: “¿Cómo está maestro?”



La obra fue creada por la escultora Luz Badillo. El acto de develar el monumento estuvo amenizado por el cantante Cheo Feliciano junto a su orquesta dirigida por Louie García. Tite Curet Alonso fue el compositor más prolífico que tuvo el movimiento de la salsa con más de dos mil composiciones de las cuales muchas pertenecen al “Salón de la Fama” de ese movimiento musical.



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