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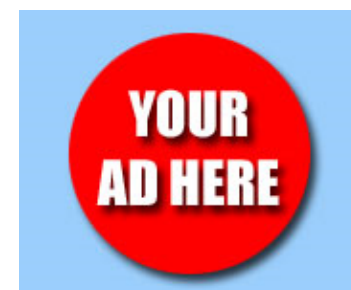


Columns

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012 ISSUE

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QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangua

Summer concerts and festivals continue to be a main part of the Los Angeles landscape with music and dancing providing the ultimate soundtrack of this summer. **The Radisson Hotel** (in the city of Whittier) continues to go strong with their annual "Poolside Salsa Dancing" every Friday from 6:30 to 9:30 pm to the sounds of live salsa by some of Los Angeles' top bands. The August calendar features **Octavio Figueroa y La Combinación** (August 3), **Tabaco y Ron** (August 10), **Chino Espinoza y Los Dueños del Son** (August 17), **Bomba Mix** (August 24), and **Son Mayor** (August 31).

The Autry Museum and Center in Griffith Park continues its "Sizzling Summer Nights" every Thursday evening from 6 to 9 pm, showcasing some of Los Angeles' favorite salsa bands. The August schedule includes **Octavio Figueroa y La Combinación** (August 2), **Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca** (August 9), **Yari Moré y su Orquesta** (August 16), **Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad** (August 23), and **Son Mayor** (August 30). All ages are welcome.

Around Town... **The Susie Hansen Latin Band** plays Tuesday nights at Michael's Tuscan Room in San Pedro. **Fay Roberts and Orquesta Charangoa** will be performing in downtown Burbank on August 2. The group **Bombachante** performs at the Cesar Chavez Amphitheatre in Los Angeles, also on August 2. Fania legend vocalist **Ismael Miranda** graces Steven's Steak House on August 3. Directly from New York City, singer/bandleader **Frankie Morales** performs at The Granada in Alhambra together with the local group **Afro-Son** on August 17. The queen of reggaeton, **Ivy Queen**, plays The Conga Room on August 23 at L.A. Live in Downtown Los Angeles. "El Caballero de la Salsa" **Gilberto Santa Rosa** headlines The Mayan, also in Downtown

Bloque 53

Cogelo Ahi

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Chico Álvarez

El Indio Caonabo

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Bio Ritmo

La Muralla

Streaming Music

Louie Cruz Beltran
Paint the Rhythm
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Cintron Band Live
Human Nature
Windows Media
Quicktime

Vanelis
Como Lo Extraño
Windows Media
Quicktime

Nayibe
Borinquen
Windows Media
Quicktime

Luis González
Spain
Windows Media
Quicktime

Rolando Sanchez
Vamonos De Fiesta
Windows Media
Quicktime

Steve Pouchie
Watch Ur Wallet
Windows Media
Quicktime

Somos Son
Bilongo

Los Angeles on August 23. Singer **Frankie Ruiz Jr.** (son of the late Frankie Ruiz) performs at Steven's Steak House in the city of Commerce on August 24.

In San Diego, "**Sabor On the Bay**" presents "Carnaval Boat Party" on September 1st. This 3-hour cruise featuring breathtaking views of the San Diego harbor by night on a 1,000 capacity luxury yacht moves to the beat of live salsa music by the group **Son Mayor** (one of the most energetic salsa bands of Los Angeles) and the sounds of **DJ Frank** spinning salsa and bachata. **Erock Dos Santos & Samba Pop** plays Brazilian music in the top outdoor deck, while exotic samba dancers perform throughout the yacht. **DJs Martin Kache and DJ Dynamiq** spin house, techno and dance tracks. The party is hosted by **Chris Springer** (San Diego radio personality of "The Latin Groove Show"). An "After Party" dance takes place at the Sheraton Hotel Grand Ballroom featuring the live salsa sounds of the **Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad** band, plus DJs spinning bachata and reggaeton from 12 am to 4 am. For tickets and more information, visit www.saboronthebay.com or call (619) 886-5952.

The California Puerto Rican Parade and Festival presents "Isla del Encanto Festival" on October 7 at the Montebello Park in Montebello. Headlining the festival will be (directly from Puerto Rico) singers **Victoria Sanabria, Kevin Ceballo, and Frankie Ruiz Jr.**

Albert Torres Productions presents, directly from Cuba, the legendary



Orquesta Aragon on October 26 at Steven's Steak House in the city of Commerce. This 18-member orchestra is celebrating 73 years of performing in over 30 countries worldwide. For tickets and more information, visit www.atevents.com
Continue supporting live music and all the arts. Peace.



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The Estrada Brothers
Mr. Ray
**Windows Media
Quicktime**

Manny Silvera
Bassed in America
**Windows Media
Quicktime**

A BITE FROM THE APPLE

By Vicki Solá

Led by timbalero **Ralph Irizarry**, the band known as **Los Viejos de la Salsa** has released the CD "Viejos Pero Sabrosos" (BKS Records), including nine original compositions and featuring arrangements by heavyweights such as Ricky González, Ramón Sánchez, Ray Martínez, Lucho Cueto, Julito Alvarado, Richie Viruet, Edy Martínez, Gregorio Mendoza and Nelson Jaime Gazú.

Los Viejos de la Salsa is Irizarry's latest endeavor (we're already familiar with his other projects, such as the Latin jazz group Timbalaye and the salsa band SonCafé). "The concept behind this CD," states Irizarry, "is to showcase and emphasize the continued level of excellence and experience achieved throughout the years by veteran musicians."

The list of musicians found on the bandleading timbalero's new album includes the likes of Reynaldo Jorge (trombone), Elías López and Nelson Jaime Gazú (trumpets), Bobby Franceschini (tenor saxophone) Edy Martínez (piano), Rubén Rodríguez (bass), Eddie Montalvo (tumbadoras), Carlitos Soto (bongó and cencerro), Willie Ruiz, José "Pepito" Gómez, Joseph "Quique" González, Eddie Rosado and Héctor "Papote" Jiménez (coros). The cast of musical guests consists of Eric Chacón (flute), Mike Eckroth and Ricky González (piano), José "Pepe" Espinosa (tumbadoras), Jorge Maldonado and Yonathan Gavidia (minor percussion).

Irizarry's résumé is quite impressive: He has recorded and/or performed with El Gran Combo, Sonora Ponceña, Ray Barretto, Seis del Solar, Bebo Valdés, Harry Belafonte, David Byrne, Celia Cruz, Paquito D'Rivera, Juan Luis Guerra, Earl Klugh, Israel López (Cachao), Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, etc. He has appeared on the Johnny Carson Show, the David Letterman Show, Don Francisco's "Sábado Gigante" and Raúl Velasco's "Siempre en Domingo." Irizarry had a role in the Mambo Kings motion picture and in several extraordinary music documentaries — "Routes of Rhythm," "Como Mi Ritmo No Hay Dos", and "The Life of Rubén Blades."

Tito Guadalupe has released "Mi Receta Musical" (JguaD), a production comprised of original tunes, recorded in Puerto Rico and New York. This singer/composer/musician Guadalupe (born as Jesús Alberto Guadalupe, in Waterbury, Connecticut) is well known throughout his native state's Latin music community. At the age of fifteen, he played bongó and sang lead vocals for a band called La Optima, and in 1988, he recorded "El Pregonero" with La Orquesta Unidad, for Dynasty Records (a CD produced by Domingo Quiñones and Kike Cruz).

In addition, Guadalupe has provided background vocals for Domingo Quiñones, Tito Allen, Herman Olivera, Kevin Ceballo, Ray de la Paz, Charlie Cruz, Michael Stuart, Luis Damon, Frankie Negrón, NG2, Héctor Tricoché, Jesús Pagán, Pedro Arroyo, Kim de los Santos, and Felito Félix. His talents as a composer have provided an opportunity to collaborate with notable arrangers, such as Humberto Ramírez, Willie Sotelo, José Febles, Nelson Jaime Gazú, Isidro Infante and Ray González.

Among the musicians from the Puerto Rico sessions, one finds the names of Willie Sotelo

(musical director, piano), Freddie Rivera (bass), Guillermo Calderón (trumpet), Moisés Noguera (trombone), Tito de Gracia (congas, timbal), Richie Bastar (bongó), Luisito Carrión, Ramón Rodríguez and Ray Peña (coros). The New York sessions feature the following musicians: Nelson Jaime Gazú (musical director, trumpet), Rubén Rodríguez and John Benitez (bass), Isidro Infante (piano), Pablo Santaella (trombone), Jesse Pérez (congas, bongó, timbal), Jesús Pagán and Wil Guadalupe (coros). Check out my favorite track, “No Tienes Derecho.”



The group **Cocomama** has released its first EP (Extended Play) on iTunes. “Produced by Ricky González, the tracks feature an original mix of salsa and timba,” declared the group’s pianist, Nicki Denner. “We’re looking forward to finishing the CD within the next year”... I’ve gotten great audience feedback on the three Cocomama numbers—“Llegó, Llegó,” “Ni#328;a” and “Imagina.” Onboard with Denner are Mayra Casales (congas), Jennifer Vincent (bass), Jessica Rodríguez (timbal), Shannon Barnett and Reut Regev (trombones), Ariacne Trujillo, Christelle Durandy, and Sofía Tosello (vocalists).

Upcoming Cocomama performances: August 2nd, from 9 P.M. to 12 midnight, (75 Christopher St., in Manhattan); August 10th, from 12 noon to 2 P.M. at Look, Listen, Lunch—Celebrate Summer in Midtown (600 3rd Avenue at 40th Street in Manhattan, free admission); and on August 26th, at Central Park Conservancy (northeast corner of Central Park, Manhattan, free admission). More info is available at www.cocomamamusic.com.

Salsa violinist **Freddy Rodríguez** has created Orquesta La Déjà Vu, a band that blends charanga with R&B. Rodríguez considers his sound to be urban and eclectic. “Born and bred on the border of New York City’s Harlem and Washington Heights,” he says, “I was influenced by R&B groups

like the Spinners, the O'Jays, and the Stylistics, as well as Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Machito, and Willie Colón—the music of my parents, who are of Dominican and Puerto Rican heritage... 'Old School' is my musical heritage, in a nutshell.”

Rodríguez and his group strip away the language barriers and do not employ rhythm machines. “Orquesta La Déjà Vu is the real deal, making old and young alike appreciate and dance to a common musical tradition. We try not to stay in the past, but rather to reaffirm it by interpreting today’s dance styles like hip-hop, rap, reggaetón, salsa, and bachata,” he continues. “We do this by bringing together a multi-ethnic, multicultural group of musicians who are fluid interpreters of all genres of music.”

I’ve listened to Rodríguez’s demo and look forward to the final product of his project. We’ll keep you posted!

Sad note... We’ve lost another legend and mainstay of our music: Known as the “King of the Cuatro”, Víctor Guillermo Toro Vega Ramos Rodríguez (alias Yomo Toro) was born in Guánica, Puerto Rico, on July 26, 1933, and passed away in the Bronx on June 30, 2012. In addition to his own discography as a bandleader, Yomo Toro participated in many recordings with other artists, such as Larry Harlow, Willie Colón, Fania All-Stars, Ismael Rivera, Cheo Feliciano, Típica 73, Daniel Ponce, David Byrne, Linda Ronstadt, and Zon del Barrio. His 1987 album “Funky Jibaro” was a huge hit. The left-handed master of the cuatro was laid to rest at St. Michael’s Cemetery in East Elmhurst, Queens. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

Congrats... On June 28 percussionist Danny González celebrated his 35th year with Orquesta Broadway at Don Coquí. A couple of days later, Eddy Zervigón and Orquesta Broadway marked their 50th Anniversary at Lincoln Center’s Damrosch Park.

Congratulations are also in order for **George Vélez & Grupo Arcano**—they’ve just released “Un Tipo Salao,” a single available at CD Baby.

The way things should be... I remain extremely touched by **Andrés Padua** and Hard Salsa Radio’s decision to suspend their salsa programming scheduled on Saturday afternoons—from 12 noon to 4 P.M. (EST)— in order to avoid any conflicts with my program, ¡Qué Viva La Música! (89.1 WFDU-FM and www.wfdu.fm), which airs during the same time slot. During those hours, Hard Salsa presents Saturday Night Fever with classic disco, freestyle and R&B funk, returning to regular programming at 4 P.M. HardSalsa.com is a 24 hour Internet station playing classics plus new salsa artists and features a store that sells rare vinyl records and CDs. Every quarter they produce the live events known as The Hard Salsa Battles. The most recent musical battle took place this past June 8th, with Concepto Sabor taking on Los Hermanos Colón. Hard Salsa’s updated schedule is posted at <http://www.hardsalsa.com/schedule>. Imagine if everyone in the industry cooperated on such a level.





On July 3rd I had the honor of emceeing the performance of the legendary **Johnny Colón's** orchestra at Damrosch Park, as part of Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing series. Regarded as a Latin boogaloo pioneer (his "Boogaloo Blues" is considered as the ultimate standard of such hybrid form), Colón dazzled the crowd with boogaloo and salsa— playing trombone, congas, and bongó; while providing lead vocals and conducting an extended version of "Merecumbé." It must be

noted that Colón founded the East Harlem Music School, a renowned institution that has trained many of the most notable exponents of New York's Latin music.

DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month": Ray Castro & Conjunto Clásico's "A Cali."

Around Town: Don Coquí, located in Rochelle Park, New York, features "Latin Jazz Wednesdays", including Steve Pouchie's Latin Jazz Ensemble (Aug. 1), Willie Rodríguez's Latin Jazz Group (Aug. 15), and Orlando Marín, a.k.a. "The Last Mambo King" (Aug. 22). On Thursday evenings, the venue presents the following salsa acts: Los Hermanos Colón, honoring Hard Salsa Radio's Andrés Padua (Aug. 2); Ray Ramos y La Sonora's 30th Anniversary Celebration (Aug. 9); Conjunto Libre (Aug. 16); The Boricua Legends (Aug. 23); and Aurora & Zon del Barrios's Bon Voyage Party (Aug. 30)... Confirmed in Nyack's West Gate Lounge roster: Luis Mangual (Aug. 4), Johnny Ray & Salsa con Clase (Aug. 11), Son 9 (Aug. 18), and Típica 73 (Aug. 25).

The 12th Annual New York International Salsa Congress takes place from August 29 to September 2 at the New York Hilton located in Manhattan, with The Boricua Legends (Aug. 30), Larry Harlow (Aug. 31), Our Latin Thing (Sept. 1), and Eddie Palmieri (Sept. 2). Further info is available at www.nycsalsacongress.com.

¡Hasta la próxima!



LATIN BEAT UPDATE

By Nelson Rodríguez





There's nothing more gratifying for us in the music business than to see new acts that become successful and are able to maintain an active recording/performing career. At Latin Beat, we bring you information every month about new recordings and new acts, as well as those veterans that remain professionally active.

For 20 years, **Wayne Gorbea** employed the services of trombonist/composer/ arranger Rick Davies, who has recorded a few CDs under his own name, including the most recent one, "Salsa Nortefia" (also the name of his current band), which contains high-energy salsa and Latin jazz. His band, composed mainly of Montreal-based musicians, is enriched with a new vocalist —Jorge 'Papo' Ross, a native of the Dominican Republic. The CD also includes four Latin jazz tracks that feature guest trumpeter Ray Vega.

From Marseille, France comes guitarist/composer **Boris Sudre**, leading the band known as Boris

y Los Amigos del Montuno, whose CD “Tremendos Corazones” has been quite successful. It is expected that the tracks “Pachamama,” “Sentimiento Sonero” and “Dueña de Su Amor” will do very well at clubs and radio programs around the world.

A surprisingly good project led by German multi-instrumentalist Gregor Hubner, “Salsa Fuerte Featuring Yumarya” mixes Latin jazz and Afro-Caribbean dance music with the excellent vocal talents of Yumarya. There are a couple of things that stand out on the CD: The track titled “Ritmo Pa’ Ti” (written by Oscar Hernández), and Hubner’s piano playing (I remember him more as a violinist).

And speaking of pianists, **Donald Vega**, a member of the Ron Carter Trio who has been part of L.A.’s jazz and Latin scenes for many years, offers his second CD as a leader —“Spiritual Nature.” In this straight-ahead jazz project, featuring distinguished players like bassist Christian McBride and drummer Lewis Nash, you can appreciate Vega’s maturity and the influences acquired through his jazz journey.

Manuel Valera has been developing a legacy as one of today’s premier pianists. He is setting new parameters in the fields of mainstream jazz and Latin jazz. Characterized by some awesome Afro-Cuban jams, Valera’s new CD (“New Cuban Express”) is also the name of a band that includes John Benítez, Yosvany Terry, Mauricio Herrera, Eric Doob and Tom Guarna.

A similar pianistic reputation has been developed by **Arturo O’Farrill**, whose new jazz release “The Noguchi Sessions” was inspired by the Japanese-American artist Isamu Noguchi. This trend-setting solo recital was recorded at the Noguchi Museum (In Long Island City, NY).

Songstress **Kat Parra** takes us in a new direction on the CD “¡Las Aventuras De Pasión!”, in which she works closer with co-producer Wayne Wallace on the arrangements, as compared to her previous recordings.

Guitarist **Miguel Garcia**, in collaboration with Orquesta Ochún y Fusión, released the disc “Guarachando,” which contains live versions of Benny Moré’s “Bonito y Sabroso” and Tite Curet Alonso’s “Naborí,” as well as the following outstanding studio tracks: “Ritmo Pa’ Mi Gente,” “Panchito El Rumbero Jinetero,” “Una Noche En Shanghai” and “Oye Mi Guaguancó.”

We were introduced to the talents of Dutch saxophonist/composer/arranger **Rudy Albano** through his Latin jazz CD “Privilegio.” It includes the track “Vuelo 0010,” which has climbed many radio charts during the past few months.

Bachata lovers will truly enjoy **Pily & Bachata Real’s** “Para Siempre,” which covers The Police’s “Every Breath You Take,” Roberta Flack’s “Killing Me Softly,” and the Bruno Mars hit “It Will Rain.” On the opening song, Pily (Adelaide Pilar Benavides) presents a great version of pop star Sting’s abovementioned hit through a duet recorded with Hugo Bernal Estrada, who was one of the group’s founders, back when it was known as Hugo y Pily con Bachata Real (Hugo died prematurely in 2011).

Vocalist **Jimmy Saa** lauched his new CD "El Embajador," highlighting his unique voice on the tracks "Saa Libre," "Cenizas," "Otro Beso," "La Pluma," "Tempestad," "Golpe De Suerte" and "Entoces Qué."

Nayibe La Gitana (María Nayibe Mera) is another vocalist endowed with a unique voice, designed to activate her professional career for many years to come. Her new CD, "Con Salsa y Melao" includes the numbers "Pa Celia," "Cualquiera," "La Caridad," "Borinquen," "Maní Picao" and "Insencible a Tí." It clearly demonstrates that she has a bright future in the international arena.

Percussionist **Joe Collado** started out with the CD "Solo Joe," in which he played most of the instruments and gave us "Old School Jam," "Love 94 Cha Cha," "Moments of Peace" and "Remembering Louie" (a tribute to Louie Ramírez). It offered a retrospective view of Collado's life in New York City and served as a preview of his new CD, "Latino Groove Project," which opens up with "AmeRican Rumba" and takes us through a delightful journey of jams such as "Jo Jo's Swing," "Son Boricua," "Blessed Bendecido," "Smooth Grove" and "Mozambique Groove."

Recorded in Havana, "Bomba Cuba" — the first solo outing of Cuban vocalist/percussionist **Giovanni Imparato** — features pianist Claudio Passavanti, who has been making a name for himself with Sunlightsquare Latin Combo. The CD offers one hit after another, and will surely elevate Imparato's game at both radio shows and nightclubs!



DESDE BORINQUEN

Por: Elmer González

Fotos por Miguel Rojas



ANDY CELEBRA 50 AÑOS EN LA MÚSICA. Fue una velada llena de emociones. Una reunión de amigos y un encuentro físico y musical con su pueblo. Así puede describirse el concierto "50 años de Andy" celebrado el 14 de julio en el Coliseo de Puerto Rico.

Tras un aparatoso accidente automovilístico a finales del pasado mes de abril, Andy Montañez se recuperó para celebrar con su pueblo sus 50 años como cantante profesional. El afamado “Niño de Trastalleres” agradeció entre lágrimas y risas todo el apoyo adicional que sintió de sus fanáticos en los pasados meses mientras convalecía en un hospital local.



Sin mayores pretensiones escénicas ni un libreto elaborado, Andy ofreció lo que siempre ha sabido dar con elocuencia: su música y su cariño. El público cantó, bailó y aplaudió fuera de sus asientos temas como "Julia", "Un verano en Nueva York", "Hojas blancas", "Me gusta" y "Reunión

en la cima”, entre otros.

Varios artistas unieron sus voces a la de Andy. Hubo interpretaciones a dúo tales como: “El Tasca tasca” con Issac Delgado, “El swing” con José Alberto “El Canario”, “Casi te envidio” con Milly Quesada, “A mi manera” con Danny Rivera, “Perdón” con Victoria Sanabria, “La negra Quibó” con Johnny Ventura, “El Benjamín” con sus hijos Andicito y Harold, “Vagabundo” con Domingo Quiñones, “En mi puertorro” con el rapero Julio Voltio, “Se le ve” con Daddy Yankee y “Quién no se siente patriota” con Atabal.

Fueron casi tres horas seguidas de música en las que Andy revalidó su carisma, fama y poder de convocatoria entre los boricuas. Sin lugar a dudas, es un intérprete fuera de lo común que durante medio siglo ha desafiado el tiempo y el espacio con su consistencia en popularidad, cosechando el cariño y la admiración de varias generaciones en Latinoamérica.



Andy comenzó su carrera profesional como vocalista de El Gran Combo en el 1962. Luego militó con la orquesta Dimensión Latina, de Venezuela, antes de lanzarse como solista.

Antes de que finalice el 2012, el intérprete de “El eco de un tambor” estará editando un disco de boleros que formaron parte del repertorio del fenecido cantante cubano Fernando Álvarez. Una joya musical en la que Andy se aventura a interpretar temas con un fuerte tratamiento jazzístico. Grabado en La Habana con jóvenes talentosos del jazz afrocubano bajo la dirección del maestro Dagoberto González Jr. Cuenta con las voces de Omara Portuondo y de Pablo Milanés como artistas invitados.



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