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## SEPTEMBER 2010 ISSUE

# Columns ⊕ ⊕ ⊕

## QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangual

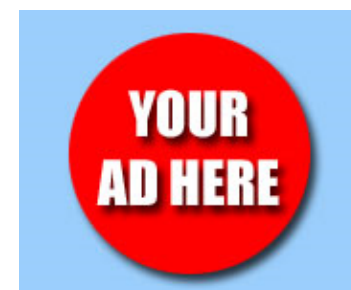
The Cubans are coming! The legendary **Septeto Nacional de Cuba** will be visiting Los Angeles and will offer three performances (September 7, 8, and 9) at the renowned Catalina's Bar & Grill in Hollywood. Singer/bandleader **Issac Delgado** (pictured above, Photo © by Mark Villa) brings his tribute to Nat King Cole to the Conga Room at LA Live (in Downtown Los Angeles) on September 9th. Delgado is currently enjoying the release of his latest CD production titled *Love* (Calle 54/Sony Music).

Singer/bandleader/multi-instrumentalist **Willie Chirino** will be appearing at the House of Blues in West Hollywood, on September 12th.

Local Cuban percussionist/bandleader **Melena** will be performing at Steamers Jazz Club, in the city of Fullerton, on September 4th.

Directly from Puerto Rico, the reggaetón superstar **Tito "El Bambino"** will be appearing at the famous Mayan nightclub, in Downtown Los Angeles, on September 2nd.

Local favorite **Susie Hansen's Latin Jazz Band** will be the featured act at LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Arts) on September 4th, as part of its summer season of concerts.



**Nayibe**  
Borinquen  
[Windows Media](#)  
[Quicktime](#)

**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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**3D Ritmo de Vida**  
Que Siga La Rumba

[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 2nd Annual La Vida Music Festival** is scheduled for Sunday, September 5th at Hollywood's John Anson Ford Amphitheatre. Headlining this year's event are Louie Cruz Beltrán and his Latin Jazz Band (with special guest Poncho Sánchez), Chalo Eduardo & The Brazilian Beat, and the Mariachi Divas, among others.

Bachata-pop artist **Prince Royce** will be at Steven's Steak & Seafood House, in the City of Commerce, on September 9th.

**Latin Groove**, a group led by Latin jazz trumpeter Frank Cano, will be performing at the LA Farmers Market, on September 9th.

Back by popular demand and directly from Puerto Rico, salsaero Jerry Rivera returns to Los Angeles for a one-night performance at the Conga Room at LA Live on September 30th.

**¡Viva México! 50th Anniversary Celebration: The 2009 Grammy-winning Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano** commemorates the mariachi's 50th anniversary and México's bicentennial with this special event to be held on Saturday, October 2nd, at UCLA Live. The concert will feature an exciting cast assigned to relate the story of México's independence through mariachi favorites such as Viva México, México Lindo, La Bamba, Ave María, and more. For more information and tickets, visit [www.uclalive.org](http://www.uclalive.org) or call (310) 825-2101.

Support all your local artists and their venues. There's nothing better than live music, live acting, and live performing arts. Peace.



## A BITE FROM THE APPLE

By Vicki Solá

"It's hard to believe that **Lehman Center for the Performing Arts** is celebrating its 30th anniversary!," comments its Executive Director Eva Bornstein, who adds that some real heavyweights will headline its upcoming 2010-2011 season's Latino Series, including scheduled performances by Víctor Manuelle (pictured above) (Sept. 18); Paquito D'Rivera, and Michel Camilo (Sept. 25); "Salsa Palooza", featuring Tito Rojas, Jerry Rivera and Eddie Santiago (Oct. 16); Oscar D'León and Salsa En La Calle, along with Willie Villegas' Tribute to Joe Cuba (Nov. 20); José Feliciano (Dec. 4); Plena



**Quicktime**

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**Maña**

Tranquilito

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

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**Santiago Ceron**

Besos de Hada

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

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**Johnny Polanco y Su  
Conjunto Amistad**

El Gusto de Mi Salsa

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

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**Siempre Salsa All Stars**

Salsa Para Siempre

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

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Libre (Dec. 18); Cuarteto Los Hispanos, along with Trio Ideal and Grupo Típico Boricua, in an "Evening of Boleros" (May 7); and El Gran Combo (June 11).

"Thank you, Bronx, for thirty years of history in the making," says Bornstein. Further information is available at <http://www.lehmancenter.org/>.

I am deeply saddened to write about the sudden and untimely death (at the age of 62) of **Gene**

**Hernández**, on August 14th, the same day that he was scheduled to appear on my program to promote his new single. Lately, he and I had been enjoying frequent conversations, and he was excited about our upcoming interview and what I'd written about his latest effort, which I know he'd want to see in print here:

"It's been a long time since Gene Hernández penned the classic "El Sabor de Gene" and the Latin standard *Isla del Encanto* (a composition recorded by Orquesta Broadway, Orquesta Aragón, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Héctor Lavoe, and Néstor Torres, among others). Now, we have *El Cubanazo*, a single release from Gene Hernández y su Salsa Clásica. It's the story of a nostalgic figure that is a master of all trades. If you're Cuban, it will touch your heart, and if you're not, it will, in my humble opinion, make you at least dance until you drop-it's 'Cuban Pete' all over again!"

Singer/composer Hernández honed his musical skills in New York City, and worked with Típica Novel, Orquesta Broadway, Orquesta Novedades, and Charanga 76. During my six-and-a-half years emceeing at La Maganette, I had the privilege of seeing and hearing Gene — a true gentleman and a superb singer and musician — every first Wednesday of each month, when Orquesta Broadway performed. I send my deepest condolences to his family.





**Laser luster... Chris Washburne & SYOTOS (pictured above, photo © by Lena Adashiva)** are delivering a new production: "*Fields of Moons* represents a coming of age of sorts for SYOTOS (See You On The Other Side)," says the bandleader. "After twenty years together as a band, we explore our softer, more pensive side, playing a collection of love songs, boleros, and lullabies on our newest Jazzheads Records release. Our musical message is 'just kick back, breathe deep, and feel the peace!'"

Washburne (trombone, tuba) is backed by the other members of SYOTOS: John Walsh (trumpet, flugelhorn), Ole Mathisen (tenor and soprano saxophones, clarinet), Barry Olsen (piano), Leo Traversa (electric bass), Diego López (drums), and Cristian Rivera (percussion). Check out Washburne's version of Pedro Flores's *Obsesión*!

Celebrating its 18th consecutive year of performing weekly in New York City, SYOTOS currently plays three sets at Smoke (106th and Broadway) every Sunday evening.

With the single *Homenaje al Sonero Mayor, Aurora & Zon del Barrio* (featuring Yomo Toro) deliver a dynamic, funky, hard-driving tribute to the legendary Ismael Rivera. The aforesaid track was written by Benny Ayala and arranged by David Fernández. Zon del Barrio is comprised of Aurora Flores (bandleader/vocal chorus, clave), David Fernández (musical director, piano, synthesizer, güiro, vocal chorus), Toro (cuatro), Sammy Rosa (lead vocals, maracas), Rubén

López (bass), Eduardo "Tito" González (bongó), Orestes Abrantes (congas), Nelson Matthew González (timbal), and Maryann Santiago-Murillo (vocal chorus).

**DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month":** Luis González's *Sí Te Preguntan*.

**Around town...** DJ Jeff spins at No. 1 Front Street's "Monday Night After-Work Latin Dance Parties", a venue located at Old Fulton St. & Front St., in Brooklyn.

Sept. 9th: Willie Martínez's Latin Jazz Quartet — featuring Nicki Denner (piano), Gregory Jones (bass), and Anton Denner (saxophones, flute) — will be playing at Harvest on Hudson, in Hastings, NY.

September 12th: Martínez's La Familia Sextet performs at the Second Annual Red Hook Latin Jazz Festival, in Brooklyn's Cabrini Green Urban Meadows.



**More laser luster...** The charismatic vocalist **Jenny Colón's** (pictured above, photo © by **George Jimenez**) new CD *Ahora Sí* (Muziq Records), produced by Conjunto Imagen's Ernie Acevedo, is tailor-made for dancers.

Born in New York City of Puerto Rican heritage, Colón studied acting with the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, and took voice lessons at New York City's Boys Harbor School. She exhibited

her acting skills in the films "El Cantante," "Crazy Young Criminals" and "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", as well as in the theatrical play "My Life as an Island," (performed at the Nuyorican Poets Café).

The multi-talented performer previously recorded the salsa/reggaetón CD titled *Yo Soy Jenny Colón*, featuring Nemesis. Her first single, *Celosa*, received national airplay.

"I believe in following your dreams, believing in yourself and also remembering that disappointment is part of success", says Colón, who always wanted to be a full-fledged salsa singer." And the last and most important thing is to never lose your values or self respect."

¡Hasta la próxima!



## LB MUSIC UPDATE

By Nelson Rodríguez



Sierra Maestra (Photo by Sevil Sert)

As summer comes to an end, the industry continues to pump re-issues into the Latin market and many new recordings are mostly available worldwide through the Internet, as brick-and-mortar stores become a thing of the past.

Colombia's **DJ El Chino** has compiled Volume 2 of his series "Solar Latin Club" with a mix of salsa and Latin jazz tracks recorded recently in the USA, Italy, Canada, Norway, France, Austria, Iceland, Colombia, and more. By far, his compilation titled *Salsa World Series: Venezuela* must be regarded as one of the top recordings of the current year. I have been documenting how the output of Venezuelan salsa has taken the world by storm, and Chino has compiled some of

Venezuela's top acts, including various rare recordings by Orquesta Los Romero, El Combo de Venezuela, Conjunto Latino de Innovación, Nico Monterola y su Orquesta Renovación, Joel Uriola, El Combo Antillano, Pibo Márquez y su Descarga Criolla, Cadáver Exquisito, La Negramante, Orquesta Palo Mayor, Rey Serrano y su Orquesta Púrpura, etc.

**Steve Guasch** has put together a very nice catalog that includes his own bands (Guaschara and Orquesta Nueva Era), as well as Orquesta SabaDonga, Julito Fernández (a.k.a. Julito Antillano), and Gonzalo y Los Príncipes de La Salsa. Guasch also plans to release a recoding by vocalist Wiwi Buznego, who has been making huge waves in Venezuela.

Trombonist **Gonzalo Palacios** is a quiet man I met when he was a member of Oscar D'León's orchestra in the 1980s. It was a thrill to hear his debut CD *Buscando Nuevos Caminos*, where he stretches as an arranger. Again, credit goes to Steve Guasch, who wants to keep our music alive, while offering these Venezuelan bands plenty of exposure in the U.S.

**Seguida Live** is five-track, 2009 recording that reunites Steve Adorno, Lori Rose, Lou Pérez and Pete Nater, among others, with recording engineer and longtime friend, Kevin Zambrana, who was part of this East coast, Latin rock band in the 1970s.

**Luis González**, a veteran trumpeter, whom I best remember as a member of Ray Barretto's band, has a wonderful and swinging CD as a bandleader, *Tributo a Un Gigante*, including guest appearances by Luis "Perico" Ortiz, Adalberto Santiago and Paquito Guzmán. Check out the monster tracks *Siempre Pa' Lante*, *Homenaje a Barretto*, *Homenaje a Los Compositores*, and the instrumental standard Spain (arranged by Oscar Hernández).

**Javier Arroyo & Salsa Night Band's** *La Cadena Se Rompió* contains some fine danceable tunes, mostly written by Arroyo, including the tracks *La Cadena Se Rompió*, *La Vida, Te Necesito*, *Caso de Brujería*, *El Chismoso* and *Puerto Rico*.

**Kako's** fans will be thrilled with the reissued release titled *Live It Up*, featuring the vocals of Azuquita during the boogaloo era and containing the smoking dance tracks *El Guapo*, *La Chica de Barrio Obrero* and *Aunque No Tengo Dinero*.

From London comes "100% Salsa", **DJ Lubi's** compilation of two CDs dedicated to various forms of classic and contemporary salsa. Thirty awesome tracks for pure dancing delight!

Five of the original nine members of Cuba's **Sierra Maestra** (who rocked the world and revived the son genre in 1976) are back with the new production titled *Sonando Ya*. The band has sought out some of island's younger writers to contribute to its legendary repertoire.

Trumpeter **Alexis Baró** calls Canada home these days, and he has been recording some creative Latin jazz, as shown on his latest CD (*From the Other Side*), characterized by its exquisite musical flavors. Just check out the tracks *African Escape* and *Panaorama*.

A Latin jazz drummer that I have always respected for his creativity and whom I was first introduced to on Chico Mendoza's WBGO Sunday morning show, many moons ago, is **Roland Vázquez**. Today he leads a wonderful band through a recording of musical gems titled *The Visitor*. Listening to the tracks *Urantía*, *Sevilla*, *Thru a Window* and *Guarabe*, one can predict that the CD will do very well on jazz and Latin jazz radio shows.

One pianist who never ceases to amaze me is **Hilario Durán**, who continues to reinvent any imaginable format, as exemplified on his latest CD, *Motion*, a superb trio date that includes bassist Robert Occhipinti and drummer Mark Kelso.

**The Craig Russo Latin Jazz Project** has a new CD, *Mambo Influenciado* that will delight fans of Latin jazz, from beginning to end.

Charanga music lovers will truly enjoy the CD recorded by the second charanga ensemble established in Puerto Rico — **Charanga Moderna**, led by percussionist Pedro E. González. This disc features the vocals of the recently departed Giovanni Lugo on "La Charanga Que Está de Moda", as a testament of his greatness.

We have been seeing more and more religious salsa recording during these past few years. One inspirational release that I enjoyed is **Puchi Colón's** *Que No Pare*.

Congratulations to **Lefty Pérez** and his new Saturday-night, Florida-based TV show endowed with all the latest technological enhancements.

Congratulations are also transmitted to **Michael P. Lazarus**, whose digital media and services company, **Latin Pulse Music (LPM)** specializes in comprehensive rights management of Latin music. Among its network of websites, LPM operates the largest Cuban music portal ([Timba.com](http://Timba.com)), as well as the multi-media download website [latinpulsemusic.com](http://latinpulsemusic.com). The download aspect has been a favorite with fans because its albums come with the full booklet. Other services of LPM include mastering and music licensing. Any artists interested in submitting their product for consideration should call 1-775-230-6501 or e-mail licensing at [latinpulsemedia.com](http://latinpulsemedia.com).



## DESDE BORINQUEN

Por Elmer González

Fotos © Miguel Rojas

**TRIBUTO A TRES GIGANTES DE LA MÚSICA.** El mambo, el jazz y la integración de ambas expresiones musicales constituyeron la tónica dominante a través de la sexta edición del Festival Internacional del Jazz que presentó el Municipio de Carolina durante los días 13 y 14 de agosto en el Centro de Servicios Municipales ubicado en Isla Verde.







Un gran número de entusiastas se reunió bajo las estrellas, atraídos por esta presentación protagonizada por los hijos de los "Tres Gigantes del Mambo Jazz": **Tito Puente Jr., Tito Rodríguez Jr. y Mario Grillo (Machito Jr.)**. Tres timbaleros que lograron revivir las hazañas musicales realizadas por sus respectivos progenitores en la edad de oro del Nueva York latino de la década de los cincuenta.

El festival, considerado como el segundo de mayor importancia en la isla después del ya tradicional Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Fest, presentó a la Mambo Jazz Big Band (MJBB), un colectivo de distinguidos músicos boricuas que dirige el trompetista **Luis "Perico" Ortiz**. El contrapunto musical estuvo a cargo de los alumnos de la Escuela Municipal de Bellas Artes, una institución que abarca diferentes corrientes de las artes escénicas, gráficas y musicales.



El saxofonista cubano **Paquito D'Rivera** se presentó durante la primera noche, acompañado por la MJBB. El público disfrutó a plenitud de su repertorio, de su ejecución como solista y del buen humor que lo caracteriza.

La segunda noche fue la más concurrida y en la cual se presentaron los susodichos vástagos de las figuras homenajeadas, los cuales se situaron al frente de la estelar big band para interpretar tres segmentos respectivamente extraídos del repertorio de sus ilustres padres. El segmento dedicado a Tito Rodríguez fue el más aplaudido ya que contó con la participación del vocalista **Gilberto Santa Rosa**, quien confiesa ser un fanático incondicional del cantante homenajeadado. Además, **Cheo Feliciano** subió a la tarima a cantar y recordó de paso que fue precisamente el intérprete de *Inolvidable* quien le dio la primera oportunidad de cantar en Nueva York, nada menos que en el legendario Palladium.



**SETENTA AÑOS DE LA ARAGÓN.** La legendaria **Orquesta Aragón** presentó un concierto el día 6 de agosto en el Centro Cultural de Caguas, ciudad ubicada al sureste de San Juan. Este concierto fue promocionado como la celebración del septuagésimo aniversario de la fundación de dicha charanga, allá por el 1939, en la ciudad portuaria de Cienfuegos.

Al siguiente día, la mencionada orquesta cubana se presentó en una actividad bailable realizada en San Juan. Decenas de parejas disfrutaron al bailar los clásicos sonos y chachachás popularizados por la agrupación. La Aragón forma parte del elenco de artistas cubanos que han visitado la isla este año y que incluye, entre otros, al cantante **Pancho Céspedes** quien presentó un concierto gratuito en el Paseo de las Artes de Caguas el pasado 14 de mayo. Un recital que desembocó en un ambiente de bohemia, cuando varios artistas locales se sumaron a la presentación del intérprete de *Vida loca*.



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