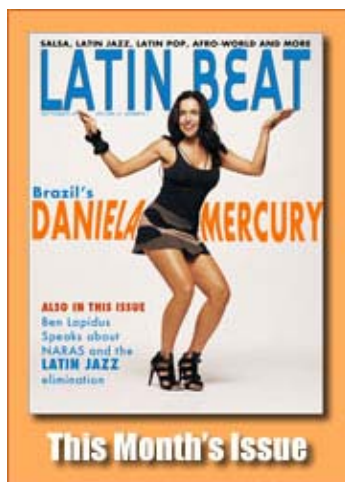




[Home](#) | [Features](#) | [Columns](#) | [Hit Parades](#) | [Reviews](#) | [Calendar](#) | [News](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Shopping](#) | [E-Back Issues](#)



Columns ⊕⊕⊕

SEPTEMBER 2011 ISSUE

QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangual

Art of Arturo Sandoval ©By Yvette Mangual



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
**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

Johnny Polanco y Su
Conjunto Amistad
El Gusto de Mi Salsa
Windows Media
Quicktime

While LA's summer of 2011 proved to be special, full of fun concerts and festivals, one of the main highlights of the season had to be the recent "Cuba Night" at the Hollywood Bowl in Hollywood, held on Wednesday, August 24. Headlining was the legendary Buena Vista Social Club (featuring Omara Portuondo and Barbarito Torres). In addition, Arturo Sandoval's L.A. Big Band All Stars and the group Ninety Miles (featuring David Sanchez, Stefon Harris, and Christian Scott rounded off an evening of musical extravaganza and surprises to a sold-out 18,000 hungry-for-Cuban-music attendees.

Ninety Miles opened the concert with its unique brand of Latin jazz original scores showcasing the talents of these individual young-lions of jazz in a tight set that was mature and extraordinary. Fronted by David Sanchez (tenor sax), Stefon Harris (vibes) and Christian Scott (trumpet), they delighted the audience with original scores from their recently released self-titled disc. Completing the ensemble were Henry Cole (drums), Mauricio Herrera (percussion), Ricardo Rodríguez (bass), and Zaccai Curtis (piano). They left the audience wanting more.

Arturo Sandoval & the L.A. All-Star Big Band followed, immediately captivating the entire Bowl with its commanding big band sound and Sandoval's prevailing and masterful trumpet savvy. They opened the set with Sandoval's composition *Funky Cha Cha* setting the mood for his first surprise special guest of the evening.

Veteran singer **Natalie Cole** strutted to center stage and belted out a sensual version of *Besame Mucho* brilliantly arranged and interpreted by Sandoval and his all-star posse. If you closed your eyes and just listened, she could have been Latina she was that good in the Spanish language. Cole also performed the Latin American classic *Quizas* before leaving the stage. Sandoval and the all-stars again gained control of the crowd with their interpretation of the 1955 classic *Cerezo Rosa* also known as *Cherry Red Apple Blossom White* (the ultimate trumpeter's tune). Next, the frontline of the popular Gipsy Kings joined in the fun performing two of their latest hits — *Taki Taki*, and *Tahitiana*. Sandoval and the L.A. All-Stars ended their set with the selection *Mambo Caliente*. It was hot.

After a 15-minute intermission, **Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club** took the stage to a storm of applause from the full-capacity crowd. Under the musical direction of Jesús "Aguaje" Ramos (trombone) and featuring Barbarito Torres (laúd) and Guajiro Mirabal (trumpet), they unveiled a repertoire of Cuban classics including *El Platanal de Bartolo*, *El Carretero*, *Pasaron Los Años*, and *Camino a la Verdad*, showcasing the tremendous lead vocal talents of Carlos Calunga. Female vocalist Idania Valdés also contributed a fiery version of the Celia Cruz classic *Bemba Colora*, as well as admirable background vocals throughout the entire presentation. And finally, the stage welcomed the "First Lady of Cuban music" Omara Portuondo. Dressed in white, the beautiful grandmother of all sang her heart out through the selections *Tres Palabras*, *No Me Llores*, and *Veinte Años*. The Cuba Night came to an end with the classic *El Cuarto de Tula*. The concert gave everyone a taste of the new sounds of today's Latin jazz, the powerful sound of a Latin big band, and the true essence of the roots of Afro-Cuban music. ¡Mucho Ache!

Happenings around town: The legendary salsa singer Ismael Miranda directly from Puerto

Rico will be performing at the Belasco Theater in Downtown, L.A. on September 4th.

Fay Roberts y su Orquesta Charangoa are enjoying their latest CD release and performing at El Floridita Restaurant in Hollywood on September 9 and September 23.

The duo Dos Hombres will be performing at Ortega 120 in Redondo Beach on September 10 and September 24.

Ismael "East" Carlo presents "Latin Jazz Descarga Virtuosos" at El Floridita Restaurant in Hollywood every Thursday commencing with Robertito Melendez (September 15), Robert Incelli (September 22), Ray Carrion (September 29), Pablo Calogero (October 6), Oskar Cartaya (October 13), Candi Sosa (October 20), and Bobby Matos (October 27).

The 3rd Annual La Vida Music Festival will be held on September 17 at the Ford Amphitheater. Headliners include Louie Cruz Beltran Latin Jazz Orchestra, AL B. Sure, Mariachi Divas, and Chalo Eduardo and The Brazilian Beat.

Maraca performs at The Granada on September 18.

The bachata group Grupo Optimo will be at Steven's Steak House in Los Angeles on September 21.

The Spanish Harlem Orchestra performs at The Granada on September 22.

Marc Anthony will be at the Gibson Amphitheater on September 24.

The group Bachata Heights from New York performs at The Granada on September 29.

Directly from Puerto Rico Don Perigñon will be performing at the La Puente Handball Club on October 9.

Brazilian superstar Daniela Mercury plays The Greek Theater on October 13.

Support your local artists and their venues. Peace.



A BITE FROM THE APPLE

By Vicki Solá

Recently inducted into Harlem's National Jazz Museum, **Dave Valentin's** current production is titled *Pure Imagination* (HighNote).

"After my heart attack," he reflects, "I thought I didn't have time (to complete the recording). I went gangbusters on this release." He is now aware that he does have plenty of time left in this planet, and he thanks all the supporting players, such as Bill O'Connell (piano), Rubén Rodríguez (bass), Robby Ameen (drums), and Richie Flores (percussion).

Gene Wilder's performance of *Pure Imagination* in the motion picture "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" inspired Valentín to record the number chosen as title track. Six other selections were penned by O'Connell, who did all the arranging. Valentín dedicates the classic *When Sunny Gets Blue* to Hubert Laws, whom he cites as a mentor, teacher, and friend. He also studied with Herbie Mann, Richard Egües, and José Fajardo.

Valentín characterizes the aforesaid induction as "a wonderful experience," adding that he performed at the museum with the backing of many other luminaries, including Johnny "Dandy" Rodríguez, José Madera, Papo Vásquez and John Walsh.

Listening to Valentín's latest, one can only conclude that he is more brilliant than ever — no one else possesses his chops or inimitable style. He is a giant.

I've frequently had the pleasure of introducing **Toby Rivera** on stage during the course of my years as emcee at the now-defunct club La Maganette.



This vocalist, bass player, all-around percussionist and bandleader presents his new CD "My Salsa Collection, a compilation of 14 tracks (eleven numbers featuring his own band, and three recorded during his days with Típica Novel), including *La Protesta de los Chivos* (one of my favorites), *La Mania de Mi Mujer* and *La Carrera de los Gordos*.

A Nuyorican born and raised in the South Bronx, Rivera has shared stages with El Gran Combo, José Alberto (El Canario), Conjunto Imagen, Orquesta Broadway, Orquesta de la Luz,

Bobby Rodríguez, Grupo Extreme, Miles Peña and George Lamond.

In addition to Típica Novel, he's worked with Ray Barretto, Johnny Rivera, Tito Nieves, Conjunto Clásico, Ray Ramos, Ray Sepúlveda, Trio Los Condes, Julio Castro & La Masacre, and Los Hermanos Moreno. He's also collaborated on a recording project with his son, Toby Love.

His new offering features high-energy material tailored to the dancer, while the listeners can enjoy the sounds created by Rivera and other stellar musicians - Joe Torres, Miguel Bonilla, Sergio George, Domingo Ramos, Junito Rivera, Roberto Navarro, Enrique Bretón, Ray Martínez, Máximo Rodríguez, Sal Cuevas, Johnny Torres, Mariano Solano, Eddie Montalvo, Jimmy Delgado, Chembo Corniel, Willie Romero, George Delgado, George González, Danny del Valle, Ray Colón, Harry Adorno, Jaime Figueroa, George Lebrón, Leopoldo Pineda, Luis López, Luis Cruz, Jimmy Bosch, Chris Washburne, Ite Jerez, Danny Jiménez, Edwin González, Héctor Rodríguez, Héctor "Bomberito" Zarzuela, John Walsh, Richie Viruet, Samuel Bofil, Alí Bello, and

Mauricio Smith, Jr. We hear coros performed by Nestor Sánchez, Doris Eugenio, Rafael de Jesús, Johnny Rivera, Tito Nieves, Louis Meléndez, Willie Amadeo, and Liz Soto.

Obviously committed to the perpetuation of our music, Rivera provided the following comment: "I thank all who have inspired and supported my lifelong dream. I remain your music servant." I highly recommend *My Salsa Collection*.

Another recently released compilation is *Lo Mejor de la Salsa de Los Hermanos Colón* (LHC Records). It features one new number, *Sabré Olvidar*, composed by the TNT Band's Tony Rojas and Tito Ramos. "This song," says Marcos Colón, "is a classic, done in so many styles and also by the late, great Joe Arroyo, who did a merengue/cumbia version."



This collection of hits from **Los Hermanos Colón's** seven productions is enriched with the arrangements supplied by Willie Ruiz, David Forestier, Héctor Hernández, Isidro Infante, Ricky González, and Sergio George.

Once again, we hear various "cream-of-the-crop" musicians, including George, Infante, René Leyva, Edwin Sánchez, Papo Pepín, Ray Colón, Pablo "Chino" Núñez, Eric Vélez, Richie Viruet, Piro Rodríguez, Luis Bonilla, Carlos Orduz, José Dávila, Wayne Goodman, Pablo Santaella, Noah Bless, Luis Disla, Julio "Chino" Moreno, Abiud Troché, Néstor Sánchez, Tito Allen, Wichy

Camacho, Joe King, and Eddie Rosado.

Congratulations to the Colón siblings (Marcos, Germán, and Freddy) and their bandmates, all of whom were recently honored in Guayama, Puerto Rico for three decades of contributions to the New York salsa scene.

DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month": Isaac Delgado's *Mujer Celosa*.

Around town... For the very first time, SonSublime and Cubanosón—along with Xiomara Laugart (star of the off-Broadway musical "Celia") — will share the stage on October 1st, at the dinner-dance known as *Festival de La Guayabera*, to be held at the Polish Center's Polonaise Ballroom, located in Yonkers, New York. Laugart, who gained prominence in the United States as Yerba Buena's lead singer and for her portrayal of Celia Cruz, has just released a new production, *La Voz*. In her native Cuba, where she is known as "La Negra," Laugart is considered a living legend. She has recorded more than fifteen albums. ¡Hasta la próxima!

***In honor of A Bite from the Apple, Latin Beat Magazine has teamed with Xceptional Entertainment and Spirit Cruises for one lucky winner to have the chance to win two tickets to a Latin Moonlight Dinner Cruise on October 29, 2011!**



The Latin Moonlight Cruise has a Live Salsa Band, "Son D' Aqui." Departing from Chelsea Piers, you board at midnight and cruise around Manhattan until 3:00 a.m. Click on the ad on this page!

The giveaway for two tickets includes open bar, food, boarding, entertainment, etc. Note that you must be 21 years old of age or older, with a valid ID, to board a Latin Moonlight Cruise.



LATIN BEAT MUSIC UPDATE ONLINE

By Nelson Rodríguez

As we enter the last quarter of 2011, we are beginning to see salsa bands that have been developing their own distinctive identities over the last decade. Latin jazz acts have been doing that for sometime now, but salseros often tend to sound like someone else, and it is difficult to distinguish one from another. Vocalists will be a key factor in establishing the formative identity of these salsa groups. This past year, we have seen some new bands with staying power...Some are big bands, while others are sextets or everything in between!



One of those is called Caché and led by timbalero **Wilson Acevedo**. Caché must be regarded as one of the hottest Canadian salsa bands of the past decade. While listening to the original tunes of the CD *Looking from the Top*, you can appreciate how the band's unique sound is enriched with the vocals of Juan Carlos Cárdenas.

Another such band is the one led by **Walter A. Torres**, as documented on the CD *Peligrosa*, which includes the hits *Peligrosa*, *Odiame*, *Olvido*, *Descarga Pa'l Tambor* and *Muñeca*. The group features two hot vocalists: José 'Pepito' Gómez and Carlos Cascante.

The Costa Rican-born singer **Carlos Cascante** has made a name for himself in the U.S.A. from coast to coast and his vocals served to enhance the latest Spanish Harlem Orchestra release. His own sophomore recording, *Hablando en Serio* will become a DJ's best friend. It includes the tracks *Ya Tú Vas*, *Tragedias*, *Pa'l Bailador*, *Hablando en Serio*, *María Ester*, and *Tremenda Sabrosura*.

Tito Rojas recorded throughout the 1990s and 2000s with only one label, MP, but he has now released his first recording on his own label (TR) and he sounds better than ever. *Independiente* is the proper title for this Rojas project and it should do well on commercial radio.

Sonora Ponceña's *El Gigante del Sur* is a compilation of 27 tracks, including some of its greatest hits, such as *Moreno Soy*, *Suena el Piano*, *Timbalero*, *Night in Tunisia*, *Canto al Amor*, *Boranda*, *El Pio Pio*, *Hasta Que Se Rompa el Cuero*, *Mi Lindo Yambú*, *Fuego en el 23*, *Bomba Carambomba*, *Ramona*, *Hachero Pa' Un Palo*, etc.

Orquesta Changüí is a Puerto Rico-based band specialized in Cuba's changüí genre. Propelled by the Vázquez siblings (Eric on timba and Eliud on piano), Orquesta Changüí is capable of competing with any Cuban-based changüí band, as demonstrated on the CD *Había Que Hacer Algo*, which showcases the talents of vocalist/composer Luis F. Ojeda and vocalist Migdoel Vázquez.

The most active Latin recording artist of the past year has to be **Gerardo Rosales**, who joined forces with a member of the Cachao musical clan, pianist Lázara López, on *Cachao Sounds (La Descarga Continua)*, in addition to releasing his own CD - *Gerardo Rosales y su Son Desempleado's Buscando Chamba*. To top it off, Gerardo just came out with the Afro-Cuban Jazz Quintet's *Chano Pozo's Music*.

Coincidentally, there were some great Latin jazz releases, protagonized by some of my favorite bandleaders, including the first Latin jazz artist I ever promoted, Cuban trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, whose new CD *Arturo Sandoval & The WDR Big Band's Mambo Nights features covers of Come Candela, Manteca, Sofrito, Oye Como Va and Mambo Inn*.

A magical pianist that I had the privilege to work with is **Michel Camilo**, whose wonderful new release, *Mano a Mano*, is a fantastic mix of his romantic touch and his fiery side. Giovanni Hidalgo lends his percussive genius to the project.

One of my favorite artists from the newer generation is conguero **Steve Kroon**, who continues to excel in each of his most recent recordings, including his fourth CD *Without a Doubt (Sin Duda)*. Notice how Kroon's band shines on the tracks *Monterey, Sabro-Songo, On 2, Mizu and Pamela*.

The Conjunto Libre legend named **Jerry González** made his bandleading debut in a classic LP long before he formed the Fort Apache Band, and in recent years he has released great projects under his own name, including his latest one (*Jerry González y el Comando de la Clave*), fronting a superb band from Spain, where he has been residing since 2000. It is definitely a top-notch Latin jazz contender.

Alto saxophonist **T.K. Blue** is a well-established jazz artist that will surprise you with his tribute to Charlie Parker on *Latin Bird*, along with percussionists Willie Martínez, and Roland Guerrero, plus guest trombonist Steve Turré. Combining great covers and T.K. originals, this CD has done well throughout the country's airwaves.

The European band led by **Marc Bishoff** has put together an EP of five songs, to be followed up

later this year with a new EP before the complete CD is eventually released. The tracks feature vocalists Nando & Fabián on four originals including the smoking arrangements of *Me Lleva y Me Eleva* and *Se Nos Fué*.

The best thing about collecting Latin music is the discovery of rare items that resurface now and then. A perfect example of this is the CD *Ritmo Caliente*, recorded by **Don Adolfo and his Orquesta Organización**. Adolph Williams (alias Don Adolfo) plays timbal and handles the lead vocals for his big band, and the CD contains very good tunes, such as *La Verdad*, *Bacalao Con Papas*, *Ritmo Caliente*, *Qué Humanidad*, *Bon Bon de Canela*, and *Amor Prohibido*.

Leticia Bal, a percussionist from the Netherlands, has put together a new conceptual organization called Trio Son Cubano, featuring Delia González (vocals) and Jesús Hernández (vocals and guitar), plus guest saxophonist Paul Welling. Although it is not your average trio format, this Holland-based musical entity works out very well, after 10 years of playing together.

Kudos to my good friend and Latin Beat colleague **Vicki Solá** for the release of her book, a new science fiction/fantasy novel inspired by her truly comic genius. "The Getaway That Got Away" will make you laugh...And we all need much more laughter in our lives!



DESDE BORINQUEN

Por: Elmer González

Fotos Miguel Rojas

CAROLINA INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL. La ciudad de Carolina, al este de San Juan, celebró la séptima edición de su festival anual de jazz. El piano fue el instrumento principal con la participación de varios pianistas locales y el reconocido pianista dominicano Michel Camilo.



Bajo la dirección musical del trompetista Luis "Perico" Ortiz, el festival se celebró durante los días 12 y 13 de agosto. Fue una celebración gratuita al aire libre. Al igual que en las pasadas ediciones, los estudiantes de la Escuela de Bellas Artes de Carolina iniciaron las veladas mostrando el interés por el jazz de estos jóvenes y el gran potencial artístico que poseen.



En la primera noche, tres pianistas puertorriqueños se presentaron con sus respectivas agrupaciones. Ángel David Matos recreó su bien logrado concepto de integrar la danza puertorriqueña con el jazz. Luis Marín desplegó su exquisito sentido melódico con un repertorio de temas latinoamericanos. Mariano Morales encendió la tarima con su grupo "Picante" con mambos, bombas y otras variantes rítmicas en las que alternó su violín y el piano.



La segunda velada fue para el trío de Michel Camilo y la participación estelar de una "Big Band" dirigida por Perico Ortiz con varios pianistas como invitados.

A SON DE GUERRA CON 440. El cantante dominicano Juan Luis Guerra y su grupo 440 inició en Puerto Rico la gira internacional "A Son de Guerra" con tres conciertos totalmente vendidos en el Coliseo de Puerto Rico en San Juan.



El intérprete y compositor de *La bilirrubina* se presentó los días 12, 13 y 15 de agosto con un espectáculo bien logrado en el que se escucharon sus grandes éxitos del merengue, la bachata y su repertorio salsero.



Guerra, de 54 años, recalcó que Puerto Rico siempre ha sido una gran plaza de trabajo por los miles de seguidores que tiene en la Isla. Por eso decidió comenzar su gira en Borinquen para luego continuar en países de Centro y Suramérica antes de que finalice el año.

**HUMBERTO RAMÍREZ
CELEBRA DOS DÉCADAS DE
JAZZ.** El trompetista Humberto Ramírez celebró 20 años de trabajo como jazzista con igual número de discos en el género,



con un concierto en el Centro de Bellas Artes de Guaynabo.

Durante la velada celebrada el 6 de agosto, Ramírez hizo un recorrido a través de los diferentes formatos musicales de su repertorio desde dúos hasta una Big Band. Contó con artistas invitados tales como el cuatrista Prodigio Claudio, la arpista Elisa Torres y la legendaria cantante de "filin" Lucy Fabery.

CELEBRAN LA VIDA Y EL LEGADO DE RAFAEL CEPEDA. La Fundación Rafael Cepeda celebró durante cuatros días los 100 años del aniversario del fenecido "Patriarca de la bomba puertorriqueña" Rafael Cepeda.

La actividad llamada "Cumbre folklórica y cultural" celebró actividades con talleres de bailes y de percusión, charlas históricas y presentaciones musicales en el contexto de la plena, la bomba, la música jíbara y la salsa.

Durante más de 10 horas diarias, el público pudo disfrutar de todo un programa cultural los días 11 al 14 de agosto en el Museo de Arte e Historia en el Viejo San Juan.

Se le dedicó un día a la música jíbara con trovadores, grupos de bailes jíbaro como el Ballet Folklórico Guateque y el grupo Mapeyé. Otro día fue para el baile con Plenéalo y la Sonora Ponceña entre otros. La plena, la bomba y la salsa cerraron las actividades con los Hermanos Ayala, Pleneros del Severo, Eric Figueroa con Mayarí Bogaloo y el Grupo ABC con la presentación de su disco *De la raíz a la salsa* bajo la dirección de Jesús Cepeda, presidente de la Fundación Rafael Cepeda.



[Home](#) | [Features](#) | [Columns](#) | [Hit Parades](#) | [Reviews](#) | [Calendar](#) | [News](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Shopping](#) | [E-Back Issues](#)

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