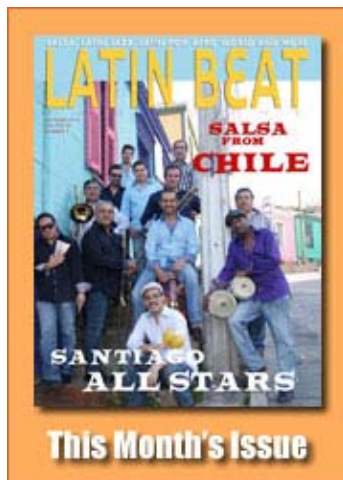




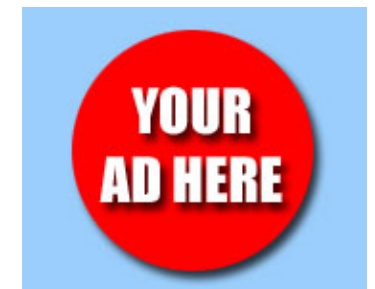
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**INSPIRATION FROM THE ARTS**  
*FUNDRAISING FOR FINANCIAL ACCESS*

**ART AUCTION AND LIVE JAZZ  
 AT VISTAMAR SCHOOL**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2010  
 5 PM - 8 PM**



## OCTOBER 2010 ISSUE

# Columns ⊕ ⊕ ⊕

## QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangual

A native of Ponce, Puerto Rico, Eliseo Borrero relocated to Los Angeles, California in 1987, to continue his music studies at the renowned local Music Institute (MI) of Los Angeles. He started playing the guitar at age 13 and a year later purchased a bass guitar and amplifier on credit from a musician who also gave him a steady gig to make money to pay for the new gear. Soon thereafter, he began performing with the local Ponce band "The Freedom Brothers," playing just about everything from Latin to pop and rock to dance music. In 1986, Eliseo goes to Miami, Florida, to perform with the Kenny Hamilton Band (a top 40 group) at The Fontainebleau Hilton Hotel, staying in Miami for about seven months, before heading west to Los Angeles. Upon arriving to L.A. he meet fellow Puerto Rican musician Alberto Mirabal who was in town attending (MI) and convinces Eliseo to matriculate in the music school. In the meantime, he starts playing with many of the local L.A. bands (La Sorpresa, Johnny Polanco, etc.), including working with ex-Menudo singer/composer Robbie Rosa, touring with him to Manila, Philippines. He also performs with Mexican superstar



**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](#)

Juan Gabriel and drummer extraordinaire Mickey Hart.

In 1992, he performed with the popular guitar duo Strunz & Farah for the first time, a group he eventually joined, recorded and toured for over 11 years. Eliseo also had the opportunity to be the understudy of flamenco icon Paco de Lucia for his USA tour in 2008. He recorded a bass solo on the selection *Mack the Knife* for the album *Back to the Road* of the legendary Puerto Rican salsa band La Sonora Ponceña (circa 2003).

More recently, Eliseo is credited for recording on the soundtrack of the motion picture "Knight & Day" starting Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz (music composed by John Powell). He is also attending El Camino College in Los Angeles to study classical bass. His future plan is to produce and direct a special concert where he will perform classical compositions on the acoustic double bass in a duo setting, followed with jazz in a trio or quartet format, continue building the band to perform Latin jazz selections, and concluding the concert playing guitar and singing lead to some of the popular compositions of the Latin American songbook.

Eliseo performs regularly around town with Bobby Matos & his Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble, Calé (flamenco group), and as a solo artist on bass, guitar, Puerto Rican cuatro, and lead vocals. His latest recording *Eliseo* is a compilation of some of the top Latin American classic compositions plus a few scores bound to be classics. It's a one man show with Eliseo performing all the instruments, heading all the programming and singing lead on all the selections. The CD is available at cdbaby.com. Eliseo is endorsed by La Bella strings.

**Around town:**

We salute and congratulate KXLU 88.9 FM's radio program **Alma del Barrio** who will be celebrating its 37th anniversary on October 13, 2010. Alma del Barrio is on the air every Saturday and Sunday from 6 am to 6 pm, playing the best of salsa and Latin jazz music to a large area of the west side of Los Angeles. KXLU 88.9 FM radio is broadcast from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and can be heard worldwide. Kudos to the entire staff of Alma del Barrio.

**New Salsa Wednesdays at the Normandie Casino in Gardena featuring Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad**

Grand opening on October 13 and every Wednesday at the Normandie Casino Showroom located at 1045 W. Rosecrans Ave., Gardena, CA 90247. Great stage and dance floor plus plenty of Las Vegas style seating. DJ Saoco will also be spinning the best of salsa, Cuban music, bachata and merengue. Free parking and \$2 valet parking available. Great drink specials and an excellent restaurant on the premises. Admission is only \$7 before 9 pm and \$10 after 9 pm. 21 with ID and over only.

**Bobby Matos & his Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble** will be performing at the Crowne Plaza LAX Hotel on October 7.

**Eliseo Borrero** performs every Wednesday evening at the La Tortilla Cantina in

[Quicktime](#)**Maña**

Tranquilito

[Windows Media](#)[Quicktime](#)**Santiago Ceron**

Besos de Hada

[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](#)

Old Torrance.

Support all your local artists and their venues.



## A BITE FROM THE APPLE

**By Vicki Solá**

The 18-piece **Steven Oquendo Latin Jazz Orchestra** recently packed the West Gate Lounge, firing up dancers with its wall of swing.

It is led by trumpeter Steven Oquendo, who remains committed to the preservation of the big band sounds. "I played this music throughout my high school and college years" recalls Oquendo. "I grew up listening to it. Most musicians in my generation have rarely had the opportunity to play and really discover or appreciate the subtleties that make it so great."



The members of Oquendo's orchestra have worked with Machito, Tito Puente, Ray Santos, Tito Rodríguez, Celia Cruz, Wynton Marsalis, Héctor Lavoe, Benny Golson, Eddie Palmieri, Jon Faddis, Dave Valentín, Marc Anthony, Arturo Sandoval, Cándido Camero, Destiny's Child, Bobby Sanabria, Juan Luis Guerra, Bob Stewart and Sergio George.

"I've made it a point," says Oquendo, "to put together two different generations of musicians, seasoned vets and 'up-and-comers', to ensure that we not only learn from one another, but that we carry out the tradition of this music properly, with respect and style." His players include Julie Acosta (trumpet and back-up vocals), Willie Olenick (trumpet), Kevin Neil, Tokunori Kajiwara, and Leonard Wallworth (trombones), Al Acosta and Louis Fouché (alto saxophones), Javier Olivencia and Mauricio Smith, Jr. (tenor saxophones), Pete Miranda (baritone saxophone), José Tavares (bass), Zaccai Curtis (piano), Eric Vélez (congas), Ray Colón (bongó), Carlos Padrón (timbal), Eddie Rosado (lead vocalist), and Quique González (back-up vocals).

When Oquendo visited my radio program, we aired a demo and some recordings of his live performances. I was blown away!

**Future laser luster... CoCoMama** is a diverse group of women hailing from Cuba, France, Argentina, Israel, Puerto Rico, Oregon, and Wisconsin, who play hardhitting, original Latin music. They are, according to percussionist Mayra Casales, going into the studio this month to begin

recording a CD. "We're planning to release two singles by December," adds the group's pianist and musical director Nicki Denner. CoCoMaMa is also comprised of Jennifer Vincent (bass), Jessica Rodríguez (timbal), Christelle Durandy and Sofia Tosello (vocals and percussion).



These bandmembers have performed with many luminaries, including Machito, Miguelito Valdés, Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Ray Barretto, Joe Cuba, Dizzy Gillespie, Wayne Shorter, Grady Tate, Regina Carter, Sheila E., Savion Glover, Cándido Camero, Doc Severinsen, Betty Carter, Abbey Lincoln, Jon Hendricks, Willie Martínez, the Xavier Cugat Orchestra, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, SonSublime, Ralph Irizarry, Jimmy Bosch, Johnny Almendra & Los Jóvenes del Barrio, Ray Sepúlveda, The Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Nelson González, Chino Núñez, Ocho y Más, Bola y

sus Cómplices, the Pedro Giraud Jazz Orchestra, José Conde & La Ola Fresca, Alex Cuba, Thalia, and the Christos Rafalides Latin Quintet.

CoCoMaMa plays Havana Central in Manhattan this month. Check out [CoCoMaMaMusic.com](http://CoCoMaMaMusic.com) for details. (Image of CoCoMa by Nívea Castro).

#### DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month": Gilberto Santa Rosa's *Vivir Sin Ti*.

On August 14, a record-breaking audience of 20,000 fans crowded Lincoln Center's Damrosch Park Bandshell to witness the New York City concert premiere of **Larry Harlow's** *La Raza Latina: A Salsa Suite*, based on the classic Fania session originally recorded in 1977 and nominated for the Grammy in 1978.



"It was conducted by Harlow, and featured Rubén Blades and guest vocalist Adonis Puentes (from Cuba via Canada)," says my colleague Louis Laffitte, adding that the 71 year-old Harlow, who has produced over fifty recordings as a leader, had always dreamed of recreating *La Raza Latina* in a concert format.



"With the backing of the Fania/Código label," says Laffitte, "he put together a 48-piece orchestra, combining his Latin Legends and Bobby Sanabria's Big Band, the latter of whom

opened the evening's festivities. After his thunderous one-hour set and a short break, we witnessed the presentation of the anticipated six-movement "Salsa Suite." The evening culminated with Harlow's staple *La Cartera*, written by Arsenio Rodríguez. For close to 30 minutes, the audience was entertained with top-notch vocals, violin solos and a trumpet solo by Harlow mainstay, Pete Nater." (*Images of Adonis Puentes and Rubén Blades by Louis Laffitte*).

**Graciela Pérez**, who passed away on April 7th, was honored on August 23rd, as celebration of the 95th anniversary of her birthday, at Midtown Manhattan's St. Peter's Church. Laffitte stated that "the Arturo O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Big Band played a tribute to Arturo's 'godmother,' interpreting classic Latin music in the tradition of Machito, Mario Bauzá and O'Farrill's father, Chico. Also jamming were bassist Andy González and pianist Sonny Bravo." featured speakers were Avenol Franco, Mappy Torres, Robert Sancho, and René López. "Graciela was never recognized as the pioneer she truly was," concludes Laffitte, "few, if any, were better at bolero and up-tempo music. Graciela's voice and stage presence will never be forgotten."

**Around town...** A **La Maganette Reunion** takes place October 10th at the Tropicana, 1061 Home Street, in the Bronx, featuring Orquesta Broadway, with special guests Andrea Brachfeld and Karen Joseph, plus the Piel Canela Dancers.

October 23rd: **The New York Latin Awards** honor Johnny Pacheco and Andy González at Hostos College. Vibraphonist Steve Pouchie is among those slated to perform.

October 9th, the **Mario Ortíz All Star Band** heats up the West Gate Lounge.

¡Hasta la próxima!



## LB MUSIC UPDATE

By Nelson Rodríguez

As the approach the end of the year 2010, we can see how much the Latin music industry has changed in the past ten years and how it will never be the same. In 2000-2001, music labels still ruled, in terms of their volume of releases, and even signed artists to their enterprises, while independent labels produced maybe 10% of new recordings. Today, independents release 90% of the industry's new material, while major labels have mostly shut down their operations. The only major company still functioning as a salsa label is Sony Music (and only through independent deals established with its recording artists).

By the mid-1990s, Latin jazz releases had surpassed new salsa projects, but this trend was reversed last year, with salsa recordings coming out from all corners of the world. With the good recordings come a few bad ones, and Latin music fans welcome a good dose of both.

Artists promoting their music with singles include the likes of NYC's Aurora & Zon del Barrio. Providing the fans and DJs with the full complimentary CD are bands such as Sammy García & El Sabor de Puerto Rico.

**Issac Delgado** has been creating a niche for himself as "the Frank Sinatra of Salsa" and his latest release is a tribute to the late 1950s Latin recordings by the great Nat King Cole. The CD *L-O-V-E*, a departure from his salsa music, will certainly earn him a Grammy nomination. This is a sensual but very Latin recording, featuring boleros, guajiras and chachachás that highlight Delgado's unique voice. Special guest Freddy Cole (Nat Cole's brother) is featured on two tracks (*Quizás, Quizás, Quizás* and *Green Eyes/Aquellos Ojos Verdes*). Add to this mix the talents of such luminaries as Dafnis Prieto, Pedro Martínez, Brian Lynch, Romero Lubambo and John Di Martino, and the result is a masterful piece of musical art that introduces us to a new side of Issac Delgado.

*El Rey* is a two-CD (45 tracks) compilation of **Tito Puente's** music, a combination of hits and lesser-known tunes that fit very well in this project. It features the vocal legends Celia Cruz, Santos Colón, Vicentico Valdés, Azuquita, Bobby Escoto, La Lupe, Frankie Figueroa and Meñique.

One vocalist not included in the aforesaid compilation (but who functioned as Puente's lead singer throughout the 1990s) is **Frankie Morales**, who has a superb new recording of his own, *No Te Equivoques...Es Frankie Morales*. The lead single, "Pronóstico", is a dynamite cover of the Impacto Crea hit from 1975. "No Me Digas" and "Quién" are two of the additional songs found in this CD.

From Venezuela, we received the CD "Contundente", the latest recording of **Konga Orquesta**, a band led by percussionist Orlando "Lalo" Rodríguez. This CD will do well with the dance crowds. It highlights the vocalists James Eduardo Camargo, Fredy Suárez, Lucero Ortiz and Carlos Andrés Suárez.

Pianist Danilo Pérez has become one of our best ambassadors of jazz, and the proof is in his latest CD *Providencia*. His stints with Dizzy Gillespie's United Nation Orchestra and Wayne Shorter turned him into one of the best pianists in the business.

Another pianist who has established himself, during the past decade, as one of the very best, is **Arturo O'Farrill**. His Hall of Fame



father, Chico O'Farrill, would be proud of all the accomplishments Arturo has achieved. Arturo joins saxophonist David Bixler (with whom he has worked extensively in the Chico O'Farrill Afro Cuban Jazz orchestra) on Bixler's CD *The Auction Project*. Surpassing any musical expectations, this CD offers a mix of traditional Irish jigs and Afro-Cuban percussion, highlighting Bixler's talent as a composer.



(Photo of Danilo Perez by Michael)

Thanks to DJ/Host **Raúl Rico Jr.** for turning us on to the CD *Cuatro Cuatros (4/4)* by Bolaños Jazz, a quartet comprised of bassist/guitarist Freddy Bolaños T., guitarist Roberto Bolaños G., drummer Ricardo Bolaños G. and saxophonist Roberto Bolaños G, reinforced by special guest Newton Velásquez. A native of Guayaquil, Ecuador, Velásquez is a very talented pianist, who has recorded his own Latin Jazz CD, *Entre La Klimax y La Ataraxia*, which includes three 'live' tracks recorded in concert in 2004. Velásquez is wonderful on the covers *Caravan*, *Blue Bossa*, *Four*, *Tenderly* and *Manteca*.

In Puerto Rico, two merengue acts trying to keep the genre alive are **Los Nuevos Sabrosos** and **Limi-T 21**. The new Limi-T 21, *Adictivo*, continues to portray the youthful sound that has kept this group in the airwaves.

An impressive new vocalist is **Kayvan Vega**, who released a three-track promo demo (the new way for acts to promote in Puerto Rico, instead of releasing a full CD) that includes *Lo Que Tiene Ella*, *Loquita Pero Chevere* and *Soy de Los Que Son*. All tracks have hit potential.

**Mambo Caliente** is a Los Angeles band led by René Sanabria. It has released an EP of five tracks, including versions of *Manteca* and *Vámonos Pal Monte*, but the opening tracks are the best ones — *Mambo California* and *Más Zacate*.

Congratulations to the Venezuelan musician and radio host **Andy Durán**, who just celebrated 5 years on the airwaves with his show "El Latin Club de Andy Durán" (95.5 FM Jazz).

Upcoming new CDs to look forward to include the ones recorded by Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Mongorama, Sonido Criminal, Nueva Manteca, Robert Incelli and Michael Stuart.



## DESDE BORINQUEN

Por Elmer González



**ENCUENTRO DE TAMBORES.** La bomba y la plena son los ritmos afropuertorriqueños que representan la cultura musical autóctona de Borinquen. Aunque su presencia en los medios masivos de comunicación es escasa, ambos ritmos se escuchan todo el año en lugares públicos y en actividades culturales.

La plena es el género favorito local. Cada año se celebran al menos una decena de "plenazos callejeros" en diferentes pueblos, barriadas y sectores de Puerto Rico bajo la dirección de Tito Matos (Viento de Agua), con la participación de todo el que quiera y pueda tocar un pandero. La bomba también ha venido destacándose en múltiples actividades públicas y gratuitas.





El pasado 19 de septiembre se celebró el Segundo Encuentro de Tambores en la plaza pública del pueblo de Juncos, a unos 40 minutos al sureste de San Juan. Esta vez, los bomberos de varios pueblos se reunieron para ofrecer un espectáculo de danzas y tambores con una muestra limitada de las muchas variantes rítmicas que componen el género de la bomba puertorriqueña. Producido por Norma Salazar y coordinado por Ángel Alomar, este evento congregó a grupos provenientes de Juncos, Ponce, Guayama, Carolina, Santurce, Mayagüez y Loiza.



El potente sonido de la percusión bombera (fundamentada en el barril, la maraca y el cuá) resplandeció durante tres horas, ejecutando las siguientes variantes de dicho género: yubá, sicá, holandé, paulé y seis corrió. Entre los músicos y bailarines, sobresalió el color blanco de sus vestimentas. Color que distingue todavía a los bomberos. Hay que señalar que en el siglo IXX, los negros esclavos de la isla ya bailaban la bomba, luciendo sus atuendos blancos e imitando los gestos "elegantes" de la aristocracia europea. Color y gestos que funcionaron como una metáfora de la deseada igualdad.



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