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## Columns

OCTOBER 2011 ISSUE

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### QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangual

October in Los Angeles is always happening when actor/comedian **John Leguizamo** performs and his latest show "Ghetto Klown" runs through October 16th at the landmark Ricardo Montalban Theater in Hollywood after completing a successful season on Broadway. For tickets and more information, visit [www.tix.com](http://www.tix.com) and/or [www.ghettoklown.com](http://www.ghettoklown.com).

### Creepy Happenings at Heritage Square Museum!

Enjoy the creepy happenings of Halloween at Heritage Square Museum during the "Eighth Annual Halloween and Mourning Tours" program. This two-day event, hosted on Saturday and Sunday, October 29 and 30, is perfect for the whole family to enjoy. The program runs from 12 noon to 4 p.m. each day. You will learn about death and mourning etiquette during the Victorian era and participate in a funeral inside one of the museum's historic homes. Learn about the movement of Spiritualism; what it was, who followed it and why, and perhaps have your future foretold by a fortune teller. Heritage Square is an open-air, living history museum dedicated to telling the story of the development of Los Angeles. The museum is located at 3800 Homer Street, Los Angeles, CA 90031. For further information, visit [www.heritagesquare.org](http://www.heritagesquare.org).

**Ismael "East" Carlo** presents "**Latin Jazz Descarga Virtuosos**" at El Floridita Restaurant in Hollywood every Thursday since September 10 (with a slamming performance by percussionist Robertito Melendez). The month of October will feature reedman Pablo Calogero (October 6),



**Cintron Band Live**  
Human Nature  
**Windows Media Quicktime**

**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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master bassist Oskar Cartaya (October 13), songstress Candi Sosa (October 20), and Latin jazz legend Bobby Matos (October 27).

Directly from Puerto Rico, timbalero/bandleader **Don Perigñon** will be performing at the La Puente Handball Club on October 9.

Brazilian superstar **Daniela Mercury** will be gracing the stage of The Greek Theater on October 13 in one of the most anticipated concert events of the year.

Twenty-six miles across the sea from the coast of Los Angeles, the island of Santa Catalina is waiting for thee. **The Catalina Swing Dance Festival** takes place November 18-20, 2011 with non-stop live music, world class dance instructors and performers, as well as dance workshops for all levels.

**The 5th Annual Festival del Cuatro de California** is scheduled for Saturday, November 19 at the Azusa Pacific College in the city of Azusa. Headlining this year's event are Edwin Colon Zayas y su Taller Campesino, Yezenia Cruz, and 12 year-old cuatro prodigy Carlos Gabriel. For tickets and more information, visit [www.festivaldelcuatro.org](http://www.festivaldelcuatro.org).

We congratulate all of our local artists and bands with new CD releases, including **Fay Roberts y su Orquesta Charangoa** (*Lo Que Quiero Es Charangoa*), **Rumbankete** (*Que No Pare La Fiesta*), **Lucky 7 Mambo** (*Chapter 1*), **José Rizo's Mongorama** (*Mongorama*), **Candi Sosa & Victor Cegarra** (*Guarapo*), **Guapacha** (*Something Different*), **Bobby Matos Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble** (*Beautiful as the Moon*), and **Quetzal Guerrero** (*Coiza Boa*).

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



## A BITE FROM THE APPLE

By Vicki Solá



Continuing a 31-year tradition of bringing world-class entertainment to the Bronx, Lehman Center for the Performing Arts has announced its 2011-2010 season lineup, and it's definitely an exciting one.

"We work hard," says Eva Bornstein, who is beginning her seventh season as Lehman Center's Executive Director. "I think this is one of the best (season) we've put together. Our goal is to feature popular attractions during these hard times, when money can't be wasted."

**Chembo Corniel**  
Buena Gente  
**Windows Media**  
**Quicktime**

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**Maña**  
Tranquilito  
**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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Eva Bornstein

Indeed, Lehman will be presenting some prominent artists that have traditionally attracted big crowds. "PACs (performing arts centers) are very much affected by the economy," says Bornstein, who adds the following comment, "Seven is my lucky number-hopefully our season will be well received."

Latino programming has not been done on such a scale by any other PAC. "We are one of very few PACs presenting

Latino series," states Bornstein, who characterizes Lehman Center as a "salsa mecca" for the entire tri-state area.

Her schedule features Paquito D'Rivera and the Mambo Legends Orchestra (Oct. 29); *Salsa Palooza* with Tito Nieves, La India, and Domingo Quiñones (Nov. 19); *Parranda Navideña* with Odilio González (El Jibarito de Lares), José Miguel Class (El Gallito de Manatí), and Yomo Toro (Dec. 17); Raphy Leavitt & La Selecta and the Spanish Harlem Orchestra (Jan. 21); Sonora Ponceña (March 24); Gilberto Santa Rosa (April 14), Olga Tañón and The Nuyorican Express, with Luis Damon and George LaMond (May 12); and Grupo Niche (May 19).

There's also a "Latino-Flavored Comedy Evening" (*Valentine's Day Comedy Fever*), with Mark Viera, Imagine, Ruperto Vanderpool, Edgar Rivera, Cípha Sounds, plus Lisa Lisa (Feb. 11); and *Forever Freestyle 6*, with Stevie B and Corina – whom I recently featured in this column – plus Safire, Cynthia, Noel, Nayobe, Johnny O, and Fascination, (March 3).



India

L-R:  
Domingo Quiñones  
and Tito Nieves

Other offerings highlight a musical style that so many of us grew up with: "Unforgettable Doo Wop" features the Drifters, the Herb Reed Platters, the Coasters, the Chiffons, and Jimmy Beaumont and the Skyliners in addition to shows headlined by Bobby Mc Ferrin, The O'Jays, Smokey Robinson, and Gloria Gaynor and The Hit Men.

"The more crossover of culture we experience," states Bornstein, "the more enriched we become—especially in New York, with its diversity. It's important to know our neighbors." She adds that Lehman's mission is to present this diversity, and that "escaping the negativity we're surrounded with is a win/win opportunity."

According to Bornstein, audience members agree. She cites an e-mail sent by concertgoer Juan Peña: "I like Lehman Center. It is the best cultural option in New York."

*Sirius Satellite* Radio became so interested in Lehman Center's Latino programming that it will



begin broadcasting Bornstein's shows live, starting with *Salsa Palooza*. "We'll reach audiences that otherwise wouldn't have access," she says. "Latin artists especially need more exposure. Well known in their own circles, they don't cross over. Anything we can do to improve this situation, we will do."

Last season –when superstars Oscar D'León and Víctor Manuelle appeared at Lehman (and in the Bronx) for the very first time–the *Bronx Times* chose Bornstein as one of the *Most 25 Influential Women in the Bronx*, because of the type of entertainment she provides.

"We'll be adding programming, so be sure to check our website on a regular basis," advises Bornstein. That website is: <http://www.lehmancenter.org/>.

**DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month":** *No Me Digas*, by *Tito Rojas*.

**Laser luster...** Ocho y Más has released a new recording. Produced by Bobby Allende, Marc Quiñones, and Arturo Ortiz, the CD *Qué Más* delivers the band's expected heavy-duty salsa, including a version of the Eddie Palmieri/Ismael Quintana classic *Puerto Rico* delivered in fine fashion, as well as a lyrical instrumental titled *Piano Improvisation (Puerto Rico)*. In addition to Ortiz (piano), Allende (congas), and Quiñones (timbal), Ocho y Más is comprised of Eddie Rosado (lead vocals), José Tabares (bass), Maneco Ruiz (trumpet), Pablo Santaella and Víctor Baro (trombones), plus a couple of guest singers: Herman Olivera on *Llanto de Cocodrilo* and Eva Ayllón on *Saca La Mano*.

**Around town...** FREE PERFORMANCE by Chris Washburne and the SYOTOS Band on October 7 at the Bronx Museum (see the Music News section on this month's lbmo.com for further info).

On Wednesday nights, La Mela Restaurant, located on Mulberry Street (in Manhattan's Little Italy section), features live salsa bands like Grupo Irek.

Slated for the West Gate Lounge this month: Gilberto Velázquez (Oct. 1); Charanga '76 (Oct. 8); Boricua Legends, featuring Luisito Ayala (Oct. 15); Blasini Iroko y La Banda, presenting *The Night of the Violinist* with Lewis Kahn and Pupi Legarreta (Oct. 22); and a Halloween Party with Charlie Cajares (Oct. 29).

On tap for *Latin Jazz* Wednesdays at Don Coquí: Orlando Marín "The Last Mambo King" (Oct. 5); Steve Pouchie and his Latin Jazz Ensemble (Oct. 12); Willie Rodríguez's Latin Jazz Group (Oct. 19); and Carlos Jiménez & Mambo Dulcet (Oct. 26). Scheduled for this venue's *Salsa Thursdays*: Cita Rodríguez's orchestra (Oct. 6), Los Hermanos Colón (Oct. 13), Conjunto Libre (Oct. 20), and Típica' 73 (Oct. 27). ¡Hasta la próxima!



## LATIN BEAT MUSIC UPDATE ONLINE

By Nelson Rodríguez

Latin jazz is as strong as ever. More artists are releasing new recordings and they come from all corners of the world. Salsa is also flourishing worldwide, and the Internet functions as the main outlet for many artists. With that said, let's get to some of the best recordings that were recently released.

**Sammy Figueroa and his Latin Jazz Explosion** released a new recording with help from pianist Silvano Monasterios (who in we reviewed here two months ago): the CD "Urban Nature" sizzles with compositions penned by Monasterios, bassist Gabriel Vivas, and guest Michael Orta, plus Nicolás Martínez's *Cuco y Olga*. My favorite tracks are *Gufillo*, *Funny Talk*, *Latin What?* and *Cuco y Olga*.



Great jazz came by way of saxophone "wiz kid" **Miguel Zenón**, whose CD *Alma Adentro — The Puerto Rican Songbook* is a beautiful gem consisting of compositional treasures he grew up with. Arranged by Zenón, these Puerto Rican classics were composed by Rafael Hernández, Pedro Flores, Tite Curet Alonso, Bobby Capó and Sylvia Rexach.

Many salsa bands have emerged in France over the years and one of the finest is La **Contrabanda**, whose second CD, *Espacio y Tiempo* highlights a unique sound on the hits *Eres Tú*, *Anhelo*, *En el Metro*, *De Francia Para Colombia*, *Visa Para el Amor* and *Espacio y Tiempo* (with guest Kevin Ceballo).

Miami's **Timbalive** is one of the hot new timba bands in the U.S. and its latest CD, *La Timba Pa' To El Mundo*, offers hit after hit with *Llegó el Pasaporte*, *Tú Sabes Que Yo Sé*, *Ra Ra Ra*, *Salsa Vitamina*, *Vive La Vida*, *Arriba Tu Gozas Más* and *Mujer Buena, Mujer Mala*.

Hailing from the U.S. Northwest, the group **Sonando** is led by Fred Hoadley, and its third CD is simply titled *Tres*. Coincidentally, there is also a band named **Sonando** in France, under the leadership of percussionist Guy 'Guido' Brogle. Its new CD, *Vengo Subiendo*, mixes some fine pop with swinging material, as shown on the tracks *Mi Timbal*, *Descarga del Momento*, *Yo Vengo Subiendo*, *Corazon Cubano*, and *Qué Bonito*, with fine vocals supplied by Osvaldo Fajardo Sierra.

**Rey Ruiz's** latest effort, *Mis Preferidas*, features very nice interpretations by one of the 1990s top commercial salsa stars that retains his vocal gifts, a decade later. The CD has some fine

tracks that will do very well at radio, such as *No Existe un Lugar, No, Por Amarte Así, Mentiras* and *Yo La Amaba y La Amaba*.

One of the top veteran jazz trumpeters, known best for his Brazilian influences, is **Claudio Roditi**. The CD *Bons Amigos*, one of his best recordings to date, includes some of Roditi's own material as well as a couple of compositions authored by pianist Elaine Elias.

The Fania film “**Our Latin Thing**” is celebrating its 40th anniversary in a limited DVD package, accompanied by a booklet. While the booklet does not cover any new material, it's nice to have direct access, in one neat package, to the historic event that helped launch the international salsa craze.

Bassist **Sirak Miguel Baloyán** grew up in Tijuana, México, and had already offered his own compositions in a prior album recorded in Puerto Rico. Now he strikes back with his wonderful second CD, eponymously titled *Sirak*. Sirak and his Sonora Antillana are bright new stars, endowed with their own style. I recommend the tracks *Mamita YoYo, Vente Pa'Ca, Swing Con Swing, Wawaricae, El Vecindario, Soy Boricua* and *Son-Zoribó*.

One of my favorite Cuban bandleaders from the past two decades is **Orlando Valle**, better known as **Maraca**. The man does it all...great salsa for dancers and awesome Latin jazz. Maraca never ceases to amaze me, as illustrated by his latest CD, *Reencuentros*. Leading his Latin Jazz All-Stars, Maraca is joined by Giovanni Hidalgo, Feliciano Arango, David Sánchez, Horacio “El Negro” Hernández, Harold López Nussa, Julio Padrón, Enrique Lazaga, and the Havana Chamber Orchestra. This CD/DVD package captures one of his live performances through a marketing format that is becoming the norm to follow by many future releases...large packages with multiple CDs or CD/DVD combos with booklet and photos.

Featuring the vocals of Wilfredo Colón and Joselito Hernández, **Sammy García & El Sabor de Puerto Rico** have just released their second CD, *Objetivo*, in which they continue to cultivate the youthful trends that have transformed them into one of the new hot bands of Puerto Rico..

**Sol** is an East Coast vocalist poised to make some noise with her sophomore effort, *La Que Manda Soy Yo*, which includes very nice renditions of *Impossible, Gede Zarenyen, Adoro, Hasta Que Se Rompa El Cuero, Dime Sí Llegue a Tiempo, and ¿Cómo Se Cura Una Herida?*

From Ann Arbor, Michigan comes the Latin jazz quintet **Los Gatos**, led by percussionist Pete Siers. This group released the album *Insight* in 2007, inspired by the music of Cal Tjader and Joe Cuba. Their following production, *Cats Got Your Tongue*, was recorded live at Ann Arbor's Bird of Paradise, and contains great improvisations by Vibist Cary Kocher, conguero Jonathan Ovalle and pianist Brian DiBlassio.



## DESDE BORINQUEN

Por: Elmer González



Tiene apenas doce años. Tiene voz de niño y una dicción de adulto educado. Su mirada es algo esquiva y su sonrisa algo tímida y encantadora. Sin embargo ya tiene un disco como líder y se apresta a viajar pronto fuera de Puerto Rico para sus primeras presentaciones artísticas como cuatrista.

Carlos Gabriel Cabrera es un niño aventajado que ha hecho de la música su mundo. Su interés primario se centra en la música puertorriqueña asociada con la música campesina. Por eso, el cuatro es su instrumento musical; el instrumento de cuerdas emblemático de la cultura boricua.

Conversamos con Gabriel y con su padre que lleva el mismo nombre, un ingeniero mecánico con residencia en el pueblo de Canóvanas quien también es guitarrista y suele acompañar a su hijo en las múltiples presentaciones que vienen realizando en los pasados dos años.

“Descubrí el potencial musical de Carlos Gabriel cuando los Reyes Magos le regalaron una guitarrita de juguete. Entonces se subía a las tarimas conmigo con su guitarrita en la mano”, dice el padre sin disimular el gran orgullo que siente por su hijo.



A los siete años de edad Carlos Gabriel se matriculó en las clases de cuatro que ofrece la Fundación Dr. Francisco López Cruz. Allí sobresalió por su progreso y su talento. Como culminación a esta primera etapa de estudios es que se graba el disco "Carlos Gabriel: Algo para entretenerse". Un título que identifica una de las composiciones del Carlos y de cierto modo su actitud hacia el aprendizaje de la música.

Y es que las actividades de entretenimiento de Carlos Gabriel no son comunes para un niño de su edad que cursa el séptimo grado de escuela intermedia.

Le preguntamos en qué se entretiene una vez que cumple con el horario escolar y con al menos una "hora diaria" de practicar el cuatro. "Bueno para entretenerme yo aprendo a tocar saxofón y de vez en cuando toco el piano", dice este niño que cambió el béisbol por el cuatro y no se entusiasma por los videojuegos ni el "chat" a través de equipos móviles electrónicos.



Claro, como todo niño de su edad tiene un "super héroe": el afamado cuatrista puertorriqueño Edwin Colón Zayas quien se ha convertido en una especie de padrino musical de Carlos Gabriel. Fue en el estudio de grabación de Colón Zayas que se grabó el disco mencionado.

El CD tiene 17 temas en diferentes variantes tales como: guaracha, mazurca, vals, plena, danza y bolero entre otros. Variantes musicales que por lo general no forman parte de las preferencias



de los niños. Pero este es un caso excepcional que más que admirarse por las aptitudes artísticas merece reconocimiento pues representa la continuidad de una cultura musical siempre amenazada por los grandes intereses comerciales que impulsan otras formas más populares de música.

Su corta carrera es el resultado del linaje musical heredado de sus abuelos en combinación con el cariño y la tutoría de unos padres con un alto sentido de responsabilidad social y cultural quienes trabajan con esmero en la formación artística de su hijo.

Carlos Gabriel aspira estudiar "aviación y música en Francia" según nos dijo. Mientras sus sueños se cumplen, se prepara en el futuro inmediato para presentarse en el Festival del Cuatro en Chicago el 12 de noviembre y el 19 en el Festival del Cuatro en Los Angeles.



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