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Columns ⊕ ⊕ ⊕

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2012 ISSUE

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QUÉ PASA IN LA

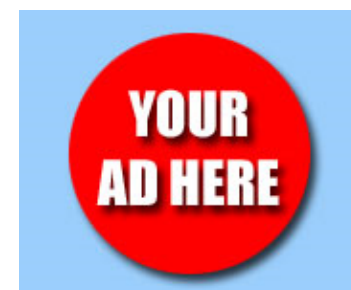
By Rudy Mangua



Gilberto Gil

While many of us are still recovering from the "14th Annual Los Angeles Salsa Congress that took place May 24-27, 2012, Albert Torres Productions is already planning next year's **15th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Salsa Congress**.

All ready confirmed are a tribute to Jairo Varela by Colombia's iconic salseros **Grupo Niche**. In the Bachata room, direct from the Dominican Republic, a concert by **Joan Soriano** (Friday, May 24, 2013); **The Latin Legends All Stars** with a three-hour historical concert featuring



Bloque 53
Cogelo Ahi
Windows Media
Quicktime

Chico Álvarez
El Indio Caonabo
Windows Media
Quicktime

Bio Ritmo
La Muralla

Streaming Music

Louie Cruz Beltran

Paint the Rhythm

Windows Media**Quicktime**

Oscar Hernández (musical director), Larry Harlow (piano), Eddie "Guagua" Rivera (bass), Orestes Vilató (timbal), Eddie Montalvo (congas), José Mangual Jr. (bongo), Jimmy Bosch, Reynaldo Jorge, Lewis Kahn (trombones), Hector "Bomberito" Zarzuela (trumpet), Alfredo De La Fe (violin), and many others soon to be announced. Featured vocalists include Cheo Feliciano, Ismael Miranda, Adalberto Santiago, José Alberto "El Canario" and Bobby Cruz (Saturday, May 25, 2013); Direct from Puerto Rico and celebrating their 51 years of performing salsa **El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico** (Sunday, May 26, 2013).

Cintron Band Live

Human Nature

Windows Media**Quicktime**

As always, there will also be pre-congress parties starting with a "Pre-pre Congress Bachata Party" at Steven's Steak House (artists to be confirmed) on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, a "Pre-Congress Salsa Party" at The Mayan in Downtown Los Angeles featuring music by **BNF** from Medellin, Colombia, and local favorites **Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad** (Thursday, May 23), plus many more great surprises to be confirmed. For more information and reservations visit www.atpevents.com.

Vanelis

Como Lo Extraño

Windows Media**Quicktime**

The godfather of Brazil's Tropicália movement **Gilberto Gil** will be making his Walt Disney Concert Hall debut on October 23, 2012, with a concert highlighting "Forro," the danceable, funky, folkloric rhythms of northeastern Brazil. The seven-time Grammy winner and recipient of over 50 albums, Gilberto Gil is an extraordinary artist worthy of a live performance.

Nayibe

Borinquen

Windows Media**Quicktime**

If dancing is your thing, Los Angeles is the place to be with live music happening just about every night and DJs spinning dance grooves nightly throughout the California southland. Monday night's **El Floridita Restaurant** in Hollywood is the place to be for over 20 years. Tuesdays the **Cock N Bull** in Santa Monica has Tumbao Salsa. Wednesdays is the **Monsoon Café** in Santa Monica — Thursdays the party is at **Steven's Steakhouse** in Commerce and **The Conga Room** in Downtown LA. Fridays enjoy **The Granada** in Alhambra, **The Mayan** in Downtown LA, and **Montrose** in Glendale. Saturdays you can go to **The Granada** in Alhambra, **The Conga Room** in Downtown LA, **Steven's Steakhouse** in Commerce, and **Tapas** in Newport Beach, and Sundays back to **Steven's Steakhouse** in Commerce. Other dance clubs and lounges around town include the **Zanzibar** in Santa Monica featuring DJs and live music nightly for the more eclectic night-goers, **Los Globos** in Silverlake with late-night Latin and world music entertainment, and **Mama Juana's** in Studio City.

Luis González

Spain

Windows Media**Quicktime**

Upcoming special events around town include singer **Charlie Zaa** at The Conga Room on October 25, the legendary **Orquesta Aragon de Cuba** at Steven's Steakhouse on October 26, Panama Independence Celebration on Saturday, October 27 at the Hollywood Park Casino in Inglewood featuring salsa iconic singer **Tony Vega**, Borinquen Post 508 Halloween Dance Party on November 3 with **Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad** at VFW Post 8620 in West Covina, and Cuban pianist/bandleader **Chucho Valdes** at The Luckman Theatre in CSULA on November 10, 2012.

Rolando Sanchez

Vamonos De Fiesta

Windows Media**Quicktime**

Steve Pouchie

Watch Ur Wallet

Windows Media**Quicktime**

For more casual live music and good food, visit Havana Mania in Redondo Beach with music by **Candi Sosa** every Friday and Saturday evening, and Ortega 120 also in Redondo Beach with music by **2Hombres** on Saturdays.

Somos Son

Bilongo

**Windows Media
Quicktime**

The Estrada Brothers

Mr. Ray

**Windows Media
Quicktime**

Manny Silvera

Bassed in America

**Windows Media
Quicktime**

Continue supporting all your local and visiting artists and their venues. Live music rules.



A BITE FROM THE APPLE

By Vicki Solá



New York City's percussionists have been releasing a number of sizzling hot productions.

Eddie Montalvo's "Desde Nueva York a Puerto Rico" (Señor Marcha Records) is, in my humble opinion, a killer-one of the best recordings I've heard in a long time. A native of the Bronx, Montalvo is a veteran of the Fania All Stars, Los Kimbos, and the bands led by Héctor Lavoe, Willie Colón, Johnny Pacheco and Celia Cruz. He features some distinguished guests on his own CD: Rubén Blades, Cheo Feliciano, Rico Walker, Tito González, Domingo Quiñones, Wichy Camacho, Issac Delgado, Héctor "Pichie" Pérez and Willie Rosario. Check out my favorites tracks: "Abicu" and "Amor En Serio."

More laser luster... The Bobby Sanabria Big Band has a dynamic new one out-"Multiverse" (Jazzheads). "The term 'multiverse' describes who we are as Latinos, and



the music I do," explains Sanabria. "Our culture is a virtual multiverse combining African, European, Amerindian and Mesoarabic cultures. Inspired by the writings of Mexican author Octavio Paz and current theories regarding the nature of the cosmos, this new CD celebrates a place with no musical boundaries, where elements of jazz, Latin, funk, R&B, rock, and even hip-hop and spoken word coexist. A place where the sacred and profane, the visceral and intellectual meet. It could only be called one thing-'Multiverse.'"

Produced by **Ernie Acevedo and Augusto Onna, Ralph Santí y su Conjunto's** "Homemaje al Bailador" (Muziq Inc. Records), also received tons of positive feedback from my radio listeners. Tailored to the dancer, bongocero Ralph Santí's release features guest vocalists Paquito Guzmán, Tito Allen, Héctor Tricoché, Ray Sepúlveda, Nelson "El Varón" Cordero, Choco Orta, Moncho Rivera, Eddie Meléndez and Chuito de Jesús. "This is Ralph Santí's best CD yet, a must have", says Acevedo.

Fronting the band called Zona-Vibe, vibraphonist **Mike Freeman** (known for his work with Lucho Cueto's Black Sugar) has released the CD titled "The Vibesman" (VOF Recordings). "I've enjoyed performing and recording with some of the best Latin musicians around for many years now," says Freeman. "In addition to the great cast of rhythm section players and other guests I was fortunate enough to work with here, it was especially satisfying to include a good friend from my college days, Jim Gailloreto. His addition deepened the cultural mix and brought in a taste of the rich Chicago tenor saxophone tradition. I like the fact that the music for this recording is very diverse in style and sound, but all of it feels good and grooves in its own way. There's a lot of different things going on musically and I find that it's still fresh and enjoyable to listen to, even after hearing it many times over."

Freeman, who has also worked with Ray Mantilla's Good Vibrations Band and José Mangual/Jimmy Sabater's Son Boricua, is currently co-leading a recording project, in conjunction with salsa singer Julio Salgado.



Known for the internationally successful production "Huracán" (along with his brother Eric Venez), **José "Juicy" Jusino** is working on a CD entitled "Me Tienes Loco." When Jusino was only three years old, his father began to teach him to play congas, bongó and timbal. When his father took him to witness a Tito Puente performance a couple of years later, Jusino ended up joining a group of youngsters who were playing with the late icon. "Those children turned out to be Bobby Allende, Tito Allende and Marc Quiñones, and the band became known as the Rumberitos All-Stars," remembers Jusino. They played at the Corso, Madison Square Garden, Avery Fisher Hall and other venues with Puente, and also performed at show with Julio Iglesias. "Tito Puente," states Jusino, "has been one of the most important influences in my life." At age seven, Jusino was featured with the Fania All-Stars, which at the time included Ray Barretto, Héctor Lavoe, and Johnny Pacheco. Two years later, his timbal playing was recorded, on the song titled "Saludo Cordial", for José Mangual's album "Para Bailar y Gozar." During his high school years, Jusino continued playing and even gave percussion lessons to his brother Eric.

After recording on a 1999 Grupo Fascinación date, which remains unreleased, Jusino was featured on three albums with José Alberto (El Canario) and also toured with El Canario and Celia Cruz for four years. He went on to perform with stars like Frankie Ruiz and Eddie Palmieri, and recorded two Latin Grammy-nominated productions with La India. In addition, he toured with Nuyorican Soul (a band featuring Tito Puente), George Benson, Jocelyn Brown, Hilton

Ruiz, Dave Valentín, Roy Ayers and La India. Jusino still performs with La India, Marc Anthony, Michael Stuart, Domingo Quiñones, Johnny Rivera, Tony Vega, Tito Nieves, Ray Sepúlveda, DLG, Frankie Negrón, Kevin Ceballo, Huey Dunbar, Wu Tang Clan and Shannon. He also participated in the live recording of "Celia Cruz and Friends," a Grammy winner for "Best Live Performance" and "Best Live Recording". On the other hand, Jusino appeared as percussionist on Conjunto Clásico's Grammy-nominated 25th Anniversary CD (featuring Tito Nieves).

"¿Qué Más Tú Quieres?", a track from the CD "Me Tienes Loco," is available for download on iTunes. When Jusino recently appeared as guest on my radio program, he offered free downloads to listeners who emailed him, and his mailbox was inundated with requests!

Around town... Lehman Center for the Performing Arts opened its 2012-13 season



Los Van Van

as the Latino Concert Series was inaugurated on September 15th with Michel Camilo's "Mano a Mano Trio" and Típica '73, the latter celebrating its 40th anniversary. This show was organized by Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center's Vice President of Development and External Affairs, Robert Sancho, who makes sure every year that the opening shows of the Lehman Center's season feature the best exponents of salsa and Latin jazz. Upcoming highlights include Los Van Van (Oct. 6); Jerry Rivera and Tito Nieves (Oct. 13); the first-ever U.S. tour of the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba (Oct. 27);



Orchestra of Cuba

Salsa Palooza, featuring La India, Tito Rojas and Frankie Negrón (Nov. 10); Parranda Navideña, featuring Felito Félix & Trio Los Antares; Odilio González (El Jibarito de Lares) and José Miguel Class (El Gallito de Manatí) (Dec. 15); The Romeros (Dec. 16); comedian/actor Paul Rodríguez (Jan. 12); Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz (March 9); Back to the '80s III, featuring Héctor Tricoché, and celebrating his 35 years in the music, along with Roberto Blades, Willie Gonzáles, David Pabón and Anthony Colón (May 18).

Eva Bornstein, in her eighth season as Executive Director of Lehman Center, is very excited, particularly about reaching out to the Cuban community. "Los Van Van haven't been around in over a decade," says Bornstein. "As for the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba, it's a wonderful opportunity to hear a fantastic symphonic orchestra at a very reasonable price. The orchestra wants to show support, in regard to (North) America and will play Gershwin's "Rhapsody In Blue," as well as Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, which has universal appeal, and also music by Ernesto Lecuona."



Many of the Latino shows will be broadcast live by Sirius XM. "It's a nice collaboration with this major network, which serves to expand audiences for Latino culture," says Bornstein, who is also enthusiastic about bringing Latin comedy into the mix. "It's unique this year—we're venturing beyond music. And (Paul) Rodríguez is a major movie star—he's been featured on HBO."

"My eighth season is the most exciting yet," says Bornstein. "It offers three great components: variety, quality and fun. Putting a season together is like cooking a good meal. We want to offer everything— salad, soufflé, main course, and dessert. Being the artistic director and curator is like being a chef." Further information is available at www.LehmanCenter.org.
¡Hasta la próxima!



LATIN BEAT UPDATE

By Nelson Rodríguez



As we reach the end of 2012, we can look back and see that the year delivered many recordings that could be classified as "future classics", as well as various vintage re-issue, and some not-so-good releases. Salsa releases are pouring from all over the world, but those who chose to simplify the recording process in order to save money might have wasted a good project in doing so, and that is a shame. Women have been a notable force in this past decade and continue to excel in the fields of Latin jazz and salsa. I've listened to a great mix of young ladies with decent voices but without the vocal range needed to elevate them to a higher status with the critics and then I've listened to some with powerful vocal chords...Nevertheless, the great 'soneras' are only a few.

Within the Cuban/Caribbean and Brazilian realms of Latin jazz, there are two female vocalists that have risen to the occasion by taking their game to the next level—Kat Parra and Anna Estrada. **Kat Parra**, known for her mixture of Latin American grooves with medieval Sephardic songs, just released her fourth CD, "Las Aventuras de Pasion". Parra's stamp all over it, not

only in the sound and instrumentation, but also in her vocal prowess. With the great Wayne Wallace in attendance, she becomes a strong "world music" representative. Listen to the chachachá titled "Oye Papi," the bomba groove of "lko lko," or her own version of Linda Ronstadt's "Lo Siento Mi Vida," among other truly joyful tracks. **Anna Estrada's** "Volando" is her third CD and clearly showcases her multilingual growth, as she sings in Spanish, English and Portuguese. She interprets a great Beatles medley, a beautiful samba adaptation of the Harry Nilsson pop hit "Everybody's Talking," and one of the better versions I've heard of the standard "Cuando Vuelva a Tu Lado."

Since 1995, the Grammy-nominated **Septeto Santiaguero** has remained one, of the most prolific and exciting Cuban bands of our times. On its seventh release, "Vámonos Pa' La Fiesta," the septet hit the jackpot with a CD that combines the traditional Cuban essence with today's salsa sound by featuring special guests Rubén Blades, Cheo Feliciano, Jimmy Bosch, José Alberto "El Canario," Luisito Quintero and Edwin Colón Zayas.

When we speak of the African influence in Puerto Rican music, bomba and plena obviously come to mind, as demonstrated in the new compilation from **Vampisoul**, entitled "Saoco! The Bomba and Plena Explosion in Puerto Rico 1954-1966". While listening to pioneers like Cortijo y su Combo (with Ismael Rivera, Mon Rivera, Baltazar Carrero, Odilio Gonzalez) and Moncho Leña (with Mon Rivera) plus rare gems from such salsa acts as Sonora Ponceña, Chivirico, Mario Ortiz, and Orquesta Panamericana (backing Ismael Rivera and Ruth Fernández), one can appreciate the rich roots of what some call have categorized as "jibaro" music. There are some huge hits included in this 30-track double CD (accompanied by a great booklet). For many of us, this is like going down memory lane, as the compilation contains some rare gems that were popular in Puerto Rico once upon a time.

Vocalist **Tito Guadalupe** brings us a mix of hardcore sounds with romantic elements. Which is precisely what we ask today's salsa artists: Not to 'pigeon-hole' themselves within the confines of one sound by eliminating their access to other options. On "Mi Recta Musical," Nelson 'Gazú' Jaime and El Gran Combo's Willie Sotelo share directing duties since the CD was recorded in both New York and Puerto Rico. Guadalupe (who penned four of the songs) also shares the composing credits (twice) with Iris Torres. I have been seeing Alberto Caicedo's name on many projects over the years, and on his solo release, "A Corazón Abierto", he continues to deliver a unique style with help from some very good friends like Boris Caicedo (bongó), Nils Fischer (congas), Marc Bischoff (piano), and the coros comprised of Nando Vanín, Fabián Nodarse and Caicedo's beautiful wife, Jeanne Schmartz (who also plays chekere). I truly enjoyed the tracks "Mi Montuno," "Salsa Buena" (thanks to DJ El Chino), "Amo a Mi Tierra," "A Corazón Abierto," "La Música" and "Tierra Adentro."

Trumpeter **Edgar Nevárez & La Trópica** are back with another winner titled "Round Trip (Ida y Vuelta)" featuring vocalist Landy Cabrera and some of Puerto Rico's best musicians. Landy's voice is showcased on the tunes "Cuándo Te Casarás," "La Trópica Viene a Alegrar," "Quién," "Dos Amores," "Se Me Va La Vida" and "El Frio", and I can assure you that this will not be the young vocalist's last rodeo.

Earlier this year, through the Internet, I became aware of the existence of the band led by **Benn Clatworthy**, formerly featured as the legendary Francisco Aguabella's saxophonist. After Aguabella's death, his band decided to stay together, and the result is the CD "Nuestra Vida," including three tunes from their old repertoire and three new tracks that highlight Clatworthy's sax, as well as conguero Christian Moraga, trumpeter Nolan Shaheed, trombonist Joey Sellers, pianist Bryan Velasco and timbalero Jorge Carbonell. The standouts are "Kandahar," "Mysterioso," "Nuestra Era" and "Mambo For Puente/My Favorite Things Medley."

Papo Vázquez Mighty Pirate Troubadours' sixth venture ("Oasis"), highlights Papo's compositions and orchestrations, inspired by the folkloric music of Puerto Rico, but jazzed up in a way only Vázquez can conjure. Highlighting special guests Regina Carter and Wynton Marsalis (on three tracks), the CD "Oasis" showcases the artistry of this trombone master with 35 years of experience in the worlds of jazz and Latin music.

Charanga lovers will truly enjoy the new **CharanSalsa** CD, co-led by flautist **Joe de Jesús** (mostly renowned as a trombonist during his days with Ray Barretto and Tito Puente) and percussionist Pito Castillo, plus Julio Salgado and Gilberto Velásquez as vocalists. Expect the tracks "Pa'Mi Pueblo," "Boquita Linda," "Yo Bailo de Todo," "La Charanga," "Me Da Risa," and "Los del Son" to do well at both nightclubs and radio programs.

One of this year's top winners is new CD protagonized by **Eddie Montalvo**: "Desde Nueva York a Puerto Rico" features the likes of Cheo Feliciano, Rubén Blades, Pichie Pérez, Domingo Quiñones, Tito González, Rico Walker, Willie Rosario, Issac Delgado and Wichy Camacho. Two huge hits have emerged from this dance-friendly CD: "El Hijo del Ricachón" (with Rubén Blades) and "Caonabo" (with Cheo Feliciano).

Another percussionist offering a similar CD is **Raphy Santí**, whose "Homenaje al Bailador" (produced by Ernie Acevedo and Augusto Onna) is endowed with the presence of Tito Allen, Paquito Guzmán, Choco Orta, Héctor Tricoché, Ray Sepúlveda, Nelson 'El Varón' Cordero (a merengero turned into a salsero on this particular session), Eddie Meléndez and Chuito de Jesús. Each vocalist brings his/her own magic touch to Santí's high quality production.

The performance of **Bobby Sanabria's** 19-piece ensemble on "Multiverse" lives up to the CD's title, as the Latin jazz orchestra takes us through an emotional, heavily percussive journey that makes this recording an instant winner for fans who have become accustomed to expect the best from one of today's top bandleading percussionists.

Conguero **Chembo Corniel** delivers the CD "Afro Blue Monk", another great Latin jazz outing with his quintet guaranteed to blow you away on the first three tracks, including the one titled "Emiliano" (enriched with Elio Villafanca's superb piano work) and Ileana Santamaria's vocal version of her father's venerable "Afro Blue."



DESDE BORINQUEN

Por: Elmer González

Fotos por Miguel Rojas



MIGUEL ZENÓN Y SU CARAVANA CULTURAL. El saxofonista Miguel Zenón parece ser hoy día el más destacado entre los músicos puertorriqueños que militan en el jazz. Como líder, ya tiene siete discos laureados por la crítica mundial. Se presenta continuamente en festivales y en locales especializados en el género junto a figuras de renombre en el mundo del jazz. Es recipiente de galardones y reconocimientos como los son el Guggenheim Fellowship por composición, y uno de los 25 individuos que han recibido el MacArthur Fellowship conocido también como la "beca de los genios". Más allá de sus logros musicales, Miguel parece tener un sentido serio de responsabilidad social con su isla natal. Sus discos "Jibaro" (2005) "Esta plena" (2009) y "Alma adentro" (2011) mostraron al mundo una percepción particular de la música popular puertorriqueña a partir del jazz.



Uno de sus proyectos de vida es promover el jazz entre aquellos boricuas que no han tenido oportunidad de conocer y apreciar este género. Para lograr este objetivo, Miguel viene presentando en Puerto Rico desde hace dos años el concepto "Caravana Cultural". Una serie de conciertos en pueblos y lugares donde por lo general no se ofrecen conciertos de jazz.

En sus palabras, Miguel declara que el proyecto "nace del deseo personal de presentar la música de la manera más pura posible. Nuestro objetivo principal es el de llevar música directamente al público dejando a un lado cualquier interés económico, publicitario o político. Simplemente música. Al enfocarnos específicamente en el género del jazz, tenemos también como objetivo eliminar cualquier estigma social o cultural con que se pueda relacionar este estilo, al igual que buscamos llevar esta música a lugares donde el público ha tenido poca o ninguna oportunidad de apreciarla". Su más reciente presentación la tuvo en el Teatro Liberty del pueblo de Quebradillas en la costa noroeste de la Isla el pasado 9 de septiembre. Allí ofreció un concierto con varias composiciones del pianista Thelonious Monk (1917-1982).

Como preámbulo al concierto, ofreció una charla educativa sobre el jazz y la obra de Monk con el objetivo de facilitarle al auditorio herramientas de apreciación musical antes del encuentro con una forma de música desconocida por algunos de los presentes.

Temas como "Hackensack", "Ugly Beauty", "Rhythm-a Ning", "Round Midnight" y "Trinkle Tinkle" provocaron múltiples aplausos de los entusiastas que abarrotaron el lugar de forma gratuita.

En esta ocasión, Miguel se presentó junto al pianista Bruce Barth, el bajista Doug Weiss y el baterista Jeff Ballard.

Como parte de estos conciertos siempre se invita a jóvenes estudiantes de las escuelas de

música de los municipios visitados para que compartan en tarima junto al grupo de Miguel. Para la gran mayoría de dichos estudiantes es la primera vez que se aventuran a tocar jazz y por lo general, se preparan con meses de antelación. Esta vez tres estudiantes de saxofón, trombón y trompeta, compartieron e intercambiaron solos con sus instrumentos a los acordes del tema "Blue Monk". La Caravana Cultural se ha presentado también en pueblos como Adjuntas, Yauco, Maunabo y la isla de Vieques.



LUISITO CARRIÓN CELEBRÓ TRES DÉCADAS DE MÚSICA. En el 2012 Andy Montañez celebró sus 50 años en la música. De igual forma, El Gran Combo ha celebrado su medio siglo de trabajo en diferentes espectáculos fuera de Puerto Rico. El cantante Luisito Carrión se unió también a esta racha de "aniversarios" con un concierto el 15 de septiembre para celebrar 30 años como cantante profesional.



Como es usual en este tipo de espectáculos, varios artistas se unieron en la tarima del Coliseo Roberto Clemente en San Juan, para compartir y felicitar al intérprete de "Yaré" quien hizo galas de su gracia sonera y su buen humor.



Con una orquesta de 15 músicos, Luisito interpretó una muestra de los temas que ha grabado como solista y con orquestas salseras reconocidas. Durante la velada participaron en tarima artistas como: la cantante Deddie Romero ("La salserita" en la década de 1980) Domingo Quiñones, Andy Montañez, Ray De La Paz, el rapero Voltio y Justo Betancourt, entre otros. Además, se sumaron como instrumentistas Roberto Roena, Gunda Merced y Don Perignon.



Luisito Carrion, Justo Betancourt



Luisito, Don Perignon

El concierto inició con las orquestas juveniles Villarini Salsa Project, Siglo XXI y NG2.



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