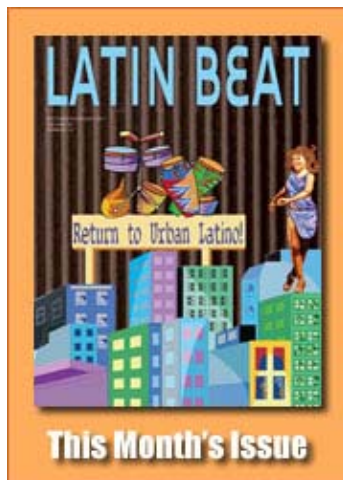




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DECEMBER/JANUARY 2010 ISSUE

Columns ⊕ ⊕ ⊕

QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangual

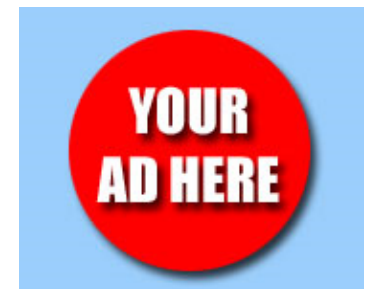
Celebrating the Holiday Season in Los Angeles is a global experience thanks to the wonderful diversity of our city. You can enjoy the Mexican splendor of Olvera Street in downtown, to walking over to Chinatown, Little Tokyo, California Plaza, and trendy L.A. Live (Los Angeles' version of Times Square). To the north is historic Pasadena (with excellent restaurants and night clubs) while to the northeast is the town of Alhambra (a hidden party haven with great eateries and night spots). To the west, you have your pick of Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Studio City, Burbank, Santa Monica and Venice (all party towns). And to the south are Marina Del Rey, Long Beach and the South Bay areas of Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach (the original Southern California beach cities).

As Latinos, we are everywhere, spreading our culture and enjoying the cultures of all those around us. Many of our Latin music hot-spots will be holding Holiday Season parties throughout the month of December starting with **Salsalegre's 4th Annual Party** at The Highlands Hollywood Nightclub on December 1st featuring local favorites Lucky 7 Mambo, Angel Lebron y su Sabor Latino, and Marisol Marquez, plus a spectacular dance showcase.

Directly from Cuba, **Los Van Van** will be performing at The Conga Room in L.A. Live on December 14 and 15.

A memorial service was held for our dear friend/musician/bandleader **Rudy Regalado** (pictured) at St. Alphonsus Church in East Los Angeles on December 4th at 3:30 pm. There was a reception immediately following the service in the auditorium behind the church from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

Ricardo Lemvo y Makina Loca will be performing at the Grand Annex in San Pedro on December 4th.



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

3D Ritmo de Vida
Que Siga La Rumba
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

Directly from New York City, **Tito Nieves** performs at The Quiet Cannon in Montebello on December 9th.

Yamila Guerra and Los Rumberos Band will be performing at the Monsoon Cafe in Santa Monica on December 11th, as well as at the 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica on December 31st.

Susie Hansen Latin Band headlines at Pershing Square in Downtown L.A. on December 12th and at Fisherman's Village in Marina Del Rey on December 26th.

Orquesta Son Mayor plays at Crazy Horse in West Covina on December 19th.

Chino Espinoza y Los Dueños Del Son will be performing every Thursday in December at The Coco Palm Nightclub in Pomona.

Dance club goers will enjoy the **Temple Bar & Zanzibar Club** events in Silverlake (L.A.'s best dance music and live eclectic music scene featuring Dubstep, Urbano, Old Skool, Reggae, Salsa, Bachata, Rock en Español, Reggaeton, and Hip Hop).

New Years Eve celebrations around town include: **Albert Torres Productions** New Year's Eve Salsa Party at The Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City featuring Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad on December 31st, for tickets and reservation visit www.atevents.com.

The Granada's New Year's Eve 2011 Salsa Bash in the city of Alhambra featuring three bands: Orquesta Costazul, Orquesta Son y Clave, and L.A. Banda Swing. For tickets and reservations visit www.thegranadasalsa.com.

New Year's Eve 2011 at **The Conga Room** will feature La India.

Support all your local artists and their venues. Live music rules! Peace.



A BITE FROM THE APPLE

By Vicki Solá

Viva La Tradición (Concord Picante), the **Spanish Harlem Orchestra's** (pictured) latest recording, features a diverse



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**

repertoire, including straight-ahead salsa, chachachá, Latin jazz, and even a bolero track. Led by Oscar Hernández, this versatile production's lead vocals are delivered by Ray de la Paz, Marco Bermúdez, Carlos Cascante, and guest star Isaac Delgado. The featured sidemen are Héctor Colón and John Walsh (trumpets), Jimmy Bosch and Dan Reagan (trombones), Mitch Frohman (sax and flute), Luisito Quintero (timbal), George Delgado (congas), Jorge González (bongó), and Gerardo Madera (bass); plus special guests

Máximo Rodríguez (bass) and Raúl Agraz (trumpet). The arrangements are credited to Hernández, Madera, Rodríguez, Gil López, Gonzalo Grau and Angel Fernández. My favorite tune, *El Negro Tiene Tumbao* showcases Hernández's pianistic talents.



"We're very proud of the work we are doing with Spanish Harlem Orchestra," Hernández told me. "We truly feel blessed to be able to play and record the music that represents New York City's Latino culture and community, and to achieve worldwide success and recognition."

More laser luster... Jesús Pagán y su Orquesta have released a holiday single, *Un Regalo Especial* — which is also the title track of this Connecticut-based band's forthcoming CD. Composed by

Pagán and arranged by Guillermo Calderón, "Un Regalo Especial" features special guest Edwin Colón Zayas on cuatro. According to lead vocalist/bandleader Pagán, this Oya/EGJ production, recorded in Puerto Rico, includes the following sidemen: Guillermo Calderón (trumpet), Juan Carlos Maldonado (trombone), Frankie Pérez (baritone sax), Carlos Martínez (bass), Carlos García (piano), Eliud Velázquez (bongó and congas), and Raúl Rosario (timbal). Pagán is also particularly enthusiastic about the tracks *En Puerto Rico Se Goza Más* and *Solo en Navidad*.

Julio Castro & La Masacre de Puerto Rico and Ray Castro y su Conjunto Clásico present singer Nayibe through a release entitled *La Gitana* (Budda West Side Beat Records), featuring Eddie Montalvo, José Mangual, Jr., Nelson Gazú, D'Mingo Ramos, Ramón Rodríguez, and

Héctor Luis Pagán. Also onboard are Máximo Rodríguez, Joe Peña, José García, William Ash, Víctor Cruz, Roberto Quintero, and Richie Viruet. Arrangements were contributed by J.R. de Jesús and Julio Estrada (Fruko).

Coming in the New Year... A new production by singer/bandleader Frankie Morales, renowned for his vocal work with the late Tito Puente's orchestra during the last ten years of El Maestro's life. We'll keep you posted!

A fascinating read... **Yolanda Maldonado's** book, *Touring with the Big Band*, is hard to put down! The author chronicles her experiences around the globe, traveling with the Mario Bauzá Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra as a backup singer. A close friend of Bauzá and Graciela, Maldonado compiled priceless photos, historical information, and detailed recollections from the abovementioned Latin music icons, whose childhood memories in Cuba are of particular interest.

DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month": Spanish Harlem Orchestra's *Como Baila Mi Mulata*.

From Amsterdam, Holland, to New York City, New York... My radio listeners are enjoying Dutch percussionist **Leticia Bal's** CD titled *Leticia: Live at the Kromhout* (Leticia Records) and recorded during an October/2009 concert. With the exception of Moisés Simons' *El Manicero* and Chiquitín García's *El Swing*, all tracks were penned by Leticia, who features guests Delia González (vocals and maracas), Tyrone Collis (guitar and güira), and Paul Weiling (soprano saxophone). As a marimba player, Bal currently leads the group called Leticia y su Rumbadama, one of the Holland's most popular Latin bands.

Around town... The First New York Latin Music Pionero Awards gala concert took place this past October 23rd at Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, honoring Johnny Pacheco, Ray Santos, Orlando Marín, Justo Betancourt, Andy González, Joe Bataan, Andrea Brachfeld, and Miguel Angel Amadeo. Vibraphonist Steve Pouchie's Afro-Cuban Ensemble performed.

Bandleaders Ernie Acevedo and Willie Villegas have teamed up to present "Salsa Con Caché Thursdays" at Brooklyn Crossroads Supper Club. Located in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn, this venue also features such Latin bands as Fajardo, Jr. y sus Estrellas, Angelo y su Conjunto Modelo, and Pete Nater & Associates.

Coming attractions... Directly from Cuba, **Juan Formell & Los Van Van** (known as "The Rolling Stones of Salsa") will appear at SOB's on December 6th and 7th. On December 3rd, the venue will present José Conde & Ola Fresca, in addition to its weekly scheduled Bossa Nova Brunch Sundays.

From December 7th to December 11th, **Willie Martínez's La Familia Sextet** plays opposite the Arturo O'Farrill Quartet, as part of Jazz at the Lincoln Center's After-Hours Series, at Dizzy's Club Coca Cola.

On December 19th, **Tipica '73** heats up the Bronx's Tropicana Club.

Charanga América, Angelo y su Conjunto Modelo, Papote & Lower East Salsa, and Grupo Latin Vibe headline Julia de Burgos' Wednesday-night schedule during the month of December.

On the West Gate Lounge's roster: Wayne Gorbea's Salsa Picante, Frankie Vásquez & Los Soneros del Barrio, and Grupo Latin Vibe, plus a New Year's Eve celebration with Luisito Rosario's Rumba del Barrio, and a New Year's festivity with Willie Villegas & Entre Amigos.

¡Hasta la próxima!



LB MUSIC UPDATE

By Nelson Rodríguez

We witnessed many changes in the year 2010 as a result of emerging trends in the ever-changing world of Latin dance music. One huge change has been the release of numerous MP3 recordings, now made available to DJs, radio stations, and record pools. A major portion of these releases come from the Venezuelan and Colombian markets, which have enjoyed a dance music boom in the first decade of the 21st Century.

During the year 2010, we noticed that many Latin jazz artists entered the straight-ahead territory, as documented on the recordings of Manuel Valera, Hilario Durán, Luis Bonilla, The Negroni Trio, Alexis Baró, Danilo Pérez, etc. Other great recordings were released by Paul López, Pedro Bermúdez, Poncho Sánchez, Arturo O'Farrill, Mark Weinstein, Arturo Stable, Samuel Torres, Keiko Okamoto, Curtis Brothers Quartet, Escencia, Daniel Amat, Roberto Fonseca, Salsumba Latin Jazz Group, Steve Pouchie, Andy Durán, Scott Martin, Roland Vázquez, Bobby Carcassés, Chris Washburne & the SYOTOS Band, VW Brothers, Craig Russo and Lucas Van Merwijk & The Cubop City Big Band, all of whom are worthy candidates for 2010 awards.

The 2010 salsa scene was weak at the club and concert levels, but the number of record productions was huge (and it is expected to be duplicated in 2011). The label of the year is Steve Guasch's **Salsaneo** label, with its new projects from Venezuela (La Negramente, Orquesta SabaDonga, Gonzalo & Los Principes de la Salsa, Julito Fernández).

Other recordings were offered by salsa artists from all parts of the world: Bloque 53, Luis González, Pibo Marquez, Jenny Colón, Orquesta Salsaborysón, Tito Puente Jr., Septeto Nacional Ignacio Piñeiro, Santiago All-Stars, Adriel, Dave Santiago & Latin Affair, Joe Canta, Orquesta La Paz, Charanga Cubana, Conjunto Costazul, Susie Hansen, Papo Ortega's Cubanosón, Issac Delgado, Más Bajo, David Lucca & Salsa Con Jazz, Havana NRG, Victoria Sanabria, Sierra Maestra, La Bola, Contrabando, Dante Vargas & The Cat Band, Orquesta Guayacán, Cachao's Mambo Orchestra, La India, Gilberto Santa Rosa, El Gran Combo, Fiesta Orchestra, Charanga Moderna, Javier Arroyo & Salsa Night Band, Charlie Sierra & Paso Nivel,

Siglo XXI, Octavio Figueroa & Willy Cadenas, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Marco Toro y su Ensemble, and Avance. Some of our 2010 favorites were Salsaborysón, Avance, Dave Santiago, Tito Puente Jr., Dante Vargas, Septeto Nacional, Ignacio Piñeiro, Bloque 53, El Gran Combo, Havana NRG, and Octavio Figueroa & Willy Cadenas.

Hot vocalist **Luisito Rosario** (pictured) has always performed awesome music, and he is particularly known for his vocal work with Larry Harlow. I regard Rosario as one of the best but most underrated singers of the first decade of the 21st century. He swings, one again, on the CD *Casino Rueda*, comprised of tunes previously associated with Sin Banderas, Joe Cuba, Smokey Robinson & The Miracles, Víctor Manuelle and Alejandro Sanz.



Latin jazz saxophonist **Scott Martin** (who spent 13 years as a member of Poncho Sanchez's band) surprised us in 2010 with the Latin jazz release *Only Trust Your Heart*, featuring Justo Almarino. Martin's most recent recording, titled *Dance*, is an extension of the Latin/soul/jazz sound that he is known for. This CD includes three tunes once popularized by Celia Cruz and now interpreted by songstress Juliana Muñoz, plus vocalist Derek Bordeaux's chachachá version of a 1950s North American hit — The Coasters' *Love Potion #9*.

Puerto Rican pianist **José Negroni** has released what I consider the ultimate expression of the jazz trio format: On the Negroni trio CD titled *Just Three*, with the backing of drummer Nomar Negroni and bassist Marco Panascia, José Negroni demonstrates what a real jazz trio should be about!

Another great Latin jazz release is offered by pianist **Daniel Amat**, whose sophomore project *Bilbao-La Habana y Vuelta*, features such legendary guests as Chucho Valdés, Orlando "Maraca" Valle, and Daniel's own father — Pancho Amat.

Mix **Phil Hawkins'** steel pans with jazz sounds inspired by the music of Cuba, Brasil and Trinidad, and you get the new Hawkins CD *Sugarcane Suite*, endowed with an ensemble that includes sidemen Murray Low, Ray Obiedo, Michael Spiro, Paul and Marc Van Wageningen, and guests Karl Perazzo, Randy Brecker, Orlando Torriente and Edgardo Cambón.

Leticia (Titia Bal) was a member of the all-female Dutch group Perfume de Salsa, back in 1993, and now she returns with a solo CD, *Live at The Kromhout*, which serves as a wonderful showcase of her percussive talents. Guest vocalist Delia González excels on her version of El Gran Combo's *El Swing*.

Back in 2008/2009, I became aware that many record productions lacked the marketing and distribution resources required to push such projects. The same applies to the 2010 recordings issued by Janeen Puente, Frederman Franco, Orquesta De La Luz, Orquesta La Diferente, Irving Manuel, Orquesta Salsaborysón, Rubby Pérez, Sergio Vargas, Orquesta Mazacote (from San Francisco), Mazacote (from Los Angeles), Keiko Okamoto, Santiago All-Stars, Orquesta Palo Mayor, Proyecto A, Vashti Sivell, José Alberto (El Canario), Orquesta La Diferente, Joe Canta, Avance and many others, all of whom deserve greater exposure.



DESDE BORINQUEN

Por Elmer González

El pasado mes de abril, el Servicio Meteorológico de los Estados Unidos pronosticó una turbulenta temporada de tormentas y huracanes en el Caribe que duraría desde agosto hasta noviembre del año actual. Sin embargo, tanto los productores de espectáculos como los fanáticos de la música popular hicieron caso omiso de dicho pronóstico ya que en el mes de octubre se realizaron numerosos conciertos de rock, reggae y jazz, además de un festival internacional de trovadores que duró más de una semana.

Claro que las siguientes actividades fueron las que más sobresalieron en el ámbito de la música afroantillana....

MARC ANTHONY REAFIRMA SU POPULARIDAD EN PUERTO RICO. El cantante de origen boricua llamado Marc Anthony se presentó en dos funciones exitosas efectuadas en el Coliseo de Puerto Rico, ubicado en San Juan, durante los días 16 y 19 de octubre.

Como hombre de pocas palabras y de gran manejo escénico en la tarima, Marc Anthony logró desbordar de entusiasmo a sus seguidores, quienes lo acompañaron cantado a coro sus éxitos de siempre, incluyendo a *Contra la corriente*, *Hasta ayer*, *Aguanile* y *Te conozco bien*, entre otros. De igual modo, interpretó varios temas de su disco más reciente (*Íconos*), el cual contiene un número que ya es un éxito en Puerto Rico y que se titula *¿Y cómo es él?*.

Marc Anthony se desplazó agitadamente todo el tiempo sobre la tarima como si fuese un felino enjaulado, arrancando gritos y aplausos de un auditorio compuesto mayormente de mujeres.

En el primer concierto contó con la breve participación de su esposa, la actriz y cantante Jennifer López, con quien interpretó a dúo la canción denominada *No me ames*, la cual provocó una ovación notable.

El momento más emotivo se produjo al final de la velada con su vocalización peculiar de *Preciosa*, una composición de Rafael Hernández que siempre logra despertar la fibra patriótica

de los borinqueños.



DANNY RIVERA CELEBRA 50 AÑOS EN EL MUNDO MUSICAL. El cantante Danny Rivera celebró medio siglo de labores musicales con el concierto titulado "Danny Rivera Sinfónico", realizado durante los días 16 y 17 de octubre, en el Centro de Bellas Artes de Santurce. Con el respaldo de la Orquesta Filarmónica de Puerto Rico, el intérprete de *Amada amante* hizo un recorrido a través de sus éxitos más renombrados ante un público que parecía sentirse hechizado por la nostalgia musical y por los filosóficos comentarios — salpicados de buen humor — que fueron expresados por el antedicho cantante, quien interpretó *Mi viejo*, *Mi árbol* y *yo*, *Libre*, *Jesucristo*, y *Tu pueblo*, entre otros éxitos.



RICHIE RAY SINFÓNICO. El pianista Richie Ray y el cantante Bobby Cruz se presentaron durante los días 23 y 24 de octubre en el Centro de Bellas Artes de Santurce, acompañados por la Orquesta Sinfónica de Puerto Rico bajo la dirección de Roselín Pabón.

Fue una oportunidad singular de presenciar cómo la orquesta de "Los Durísimos" logró integrar sus éxitos salseros a un tratamiento sinfónico, demostrado que lo "popular" y lo "clásico" no tienen por qué ser mutuamente excluyentes.

Por años, los salseros han disfrutado las referencias clásicas que Richie Ray ha incluido en sus solos pianísticos. Esta vez volvió a hacerlo, pero impulsado ahora por un respaldo sinfónico que logró erizar el pelo de una gran parte del público presente.

Sentimos una gran experiencia sensoria cuando escuchamos temas tales como *El diferente*, *Juan en la ciudad*, *La zafra*, *A mi manera* y *Sonido bestial*, entre otros.

Ya Richie Ray se había presentado en el mismo lugar, en junio del 2000, como pianista invitado de la Sinfónica de Puerto Rico.

REUNIÓN EN LA CUMBRE SALSERA. Varios artistas del mundo salsero se dieron cita en el Coliseo de Puerto Rico durante el pasado 23 de octubre, auspiciados por una radioemisora

local. Tras una breve aportación de la merenguera Olga Tañón, se presentaron varias figuras salseras que gozaron de gran popularidad en los años 1980 y '90, tales como Eddie Santiago, Luis Enrique, La India y Lalo Rodríguez, al igual que otros que siguen cosechando éxitos actualmente: El Gran Combo, Víctor Manuelle y Gilberto Santa Rosa.



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