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News ⊕⊕⊕

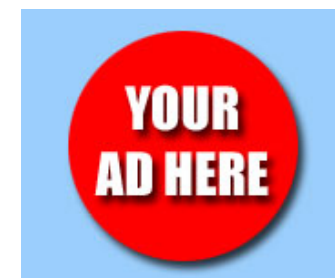
DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012 ISSUE

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La Excelencia at NYC's S.O.B.'s

Text and Photos @Allen Spatz

This was another exciting evening of music at SOB's, with the high octane sounds of La Excelencia. Those who weren't dancing on the packed dance floor were dancing in place.



Louie Cruz Beltran
Paint the Rhythm
[Windows Media](#)
[Quicktime](#)

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



During the evening's performance, I was advised that veteran musician Joey Pastrana would take the stage and perform a number with the band. The crowd was unexpectedly surprised when Pastrana was announced and especially when he took his solo and what a solo it was!

**Windows Media
Quicktime**

Chembo Corniel
Buena Gente
**Windows Media
Quicktime**

Maña
Tranquilito
**Windows Media
Quicktime**





2012 GRAMMY Awards Boycott

Thanks mainly to San Francisco Arts Commissioner John Calloway, a resolution that many helped write and edit was unanimously passed at the Arts Commission. John Calloway, Arturo Riera and John Santos had the opportunity to speak at the meeting and it was successful, another small but mighty step in the battle against the ill-advised decision by NARAS to eliminate 31 categories of roots and creative music from Grammy consideration.

An international boycott of the CBS Grammy telecast on February 12, 2012 has been called for and is in effect. Please join us if you can in the picket line at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, where the Telecast will originate.

Thank you for your support in opposing narrow-mindedness, cultural insensitivity, and colonial mentality everywhere it occurs, from congress to the streets of our country.

www.grammywatch.info for more details.

The Resolution reads:

This resolution to reinstate the 31 categories of music that were dropped by the National Academy of Arts and Sciences (NARAS) for GRAMMY consideration on April 6, 2011 supports the music genres that are truly reflective of the contemporary musical landscape and cultural diversity of the United States.

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco, which maintains a proud tradition as a hub of cultural and musical diversity, is home and host to valuable contributors of the American musical lexicon, including numerous GRAMMY®-nominated and -winning composers, artists and professionals; and

WHEREAS, NARAS, an influential nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization, is based in California and home to 30% of its 20,000+ members, and includes a San Francisco Chapter; and

WHEREAS, the decision to drop the 31 categories from GRAMMY consideration was done by secret committee without consulting the voting membership of NARAS and without local chapters' Board of Governors' knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the eliminated categories include Latin Jazz, Contemporary Jazz, Hawaiian, Cajun, Zydeco, Native American, Tejano, Classical Crossover, Instrumental Rock, along with significant reductions in awards given to the categories of Gospel, Blues and R&B; and

WHEREAS, protests and meetings have occurred in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Hawaii, Chicago, New Orleans, and other national locations to resolve this severe and extremely insensitive blow to cultural expression and recognition in our country; and

WHEREAS, respected GRAMMY-winning and -nominated artists, including Paul Simon, Herbie Hancock, Bonnie Raitt, Carlos Santana, John Santos, John Calloway, Eddie Palmieri, Wayne Wallace, Bobby Sanabria and many others have joined NARAS members, colleagues, and past Chapter governors in writing letters and signing a petition with 5,000 cosigners urging NARAS to reverse their secret decision and reinstate the GRAMMY categories; and

WHEREAS, national and international media coverage (KTVU, San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Post, CNN, MSNBC, Reuters, BBC, Wall Street Journal, etc.) has been given to the outcry against this unjust and harmful decision in over 1,200 national and international stories published and syndicated in print, broadcast, and digital formats; and

WHEREAS, NARAS has a responsibility to their voting membership to ensure that ethical decision practices are maintained because the GRAMMY is considered to be the highest award achievable for music excellence in the United States and therefore should strive to include genres and categories of particular creative and foundational significance; and

WHEREAS, the thousands of affected musicians, engineers, manufacturers, composers, arrangers, graphic artists, publicists, distributors, and other industry professionals who work in the eliminated categories will suffer economically from not being able to participate in the GRAMMY awards; and

WHEREAS, thousands of California consumers and patrons of these important musical traditions have also been negatively affected and disrespected by this ill-advised decision; and

WHEREAS, the NARAS leadership has acknowledged that a "mistake" was made indicates that these genres should never have been eliminated in the first place;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the San Francisco Arts Commission urges the National Academy of Arts and Sciences to immediately reinstate the eliminated categories in order to restore integrity and diversity to the GRAMMY Awards and fulfill the organization's responsibilities to its membership and as a nonprofit organization representing the interests of diverse musicians and recording professionals; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Arts Commission directs its administrative staff to send copies of this resolution to NARAS National Board Chair George Flanigen, Board Secretary Glenn Lorbecki, and President Neil Portnow.



**Alejandra Guzmán Inicia Gira de Estados Unidos
Con un Show *Sold Out* en el Gibson Amphitheatre de
Los Angeles**

Photo credit: C.B. Lopez

Se presentó junto al público angelino a solo horas de haber conquistado Las Vegas con una maravillosa actuación junto a Franco De Vita en los Latin Grammy.

La Reina del rock, Alejandra Guzmán, comenzó su tour estadounidense junto a Moderatto en los Ángeles, tras una exitosa presentación con Franco De Vita en la 12av Entrega Anual de los Latin Grammy en el Mandalay Bay Events Center de Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tras recorrer toda la República Mexicana con su tour Verano Peligroso, Alejandra Guzmán y Moderatto trajeron a Estados Unidos su electrizante show, celebrando el lanzamiento de su exitosa producción discográfica en vivo "Alejandra Guzmán: 20 Años de Éxitos En Vivo Con Moderatto"

Alejandra Guzmán estuvo en Las Vegas en el marco de la celebración del Latin Grammy 2011; donde participo en el concierto Gala a la Persona del Año, Shakira, cantándole junto a Natalia Jimenez una versión especial del hit de la colombiana "Ciega, Sordomuda". Alejandra abrió el concierto Gala con unas emotivas palabras a Shakira y una gran interpretación. En el día de ayer Alejandra se presento junto a Franco De Vita en la ceremonia de los Latin Grammy 2011, cantando la potente balada "Tan Solo Tu", que forma parte del álbum ganador del Latin Grammy Franco De Vita En Primera Fila.

Alejandra Guzmán continúa su gira estadounidense en Tucson, Arizona y Las Vegas para presentarse en el legendario Hilton Theater, donde Elvis Presley presento más de 58 shows.



Zoé Successfully Returns to the United States Accompanied by Spanish Singer-Songwriter Enrique Bunbury

Latin Grammy winners on their second tour of the year in
U.S.A.



After having received the greatest recognition of their careers by winning two **Latin Grammy** Awards in Las Vegas, members of **Zoé** are ready to conquer the U.S for second time now along with Enrique Bunbury.

With the undisputable success of their latest production **MTV Unplugged, Música de Fondo**,

Zoé embarked on one of the most extensive tours of their career with sold-out shows throughout Mexico, Spain, Latin America and a summer tour of nearly 30 cities in the United States.

Zoé returned to the United States with Spanish singer-songwriter Enrique Bunbury, with whom the band had previously collaborated with the song "Nada", which is also part of the CD/ DVD *MTV Unplugged, Música de Fondo*.

Following the success of this production, the band released in Mexico the special edition of its album *MTV Unplugged, Música de Fondo*, which contains the song "Besame Mucho", played in their live shows and which debuted #1 in sales iTunes México.

This new tour culminates on December 2nd in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Heineken Flash mob at the 2011 Latin GRAMMYs



On November 10, 2011, Heineken brought the unexpected to the Latin GRAMMY's by taking over the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas with a one of a kind flash mob experience celebrating Latin music. Taking the audience by surprise, the flash mob unfolded just minutes prior to the LIVE telecast of the 12th Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards. The crowd was amazed and delighted with a legendary flash mob dance.

The video was inspired by Heineken's latest TV ad titled "The Date," but this version fuses

different genre of Latin music in a fun-filled celebration.

For the past 12 years, Heineken has celebrated the best Latin Music has to offer through its support of the Latin GRAMMYs.



The International Songwriting Competition (ISC) Launches New Music Competition for Unsigned Artists

Top Level Record Industry Executives To Mentor Grand Prize Winner

Six-Day Inclusive Program Features All-Access Pass to Concerts, Events and People-to- People Encounters

The International Songwriting Competition (ISC), one of the world's largest songwriting competitions, has launched Unsigned Only, a new, unique international music competition. Designed for solo artists, bands, and singers who are not signed to a major record label, Unsigned Only's goal is to find an outstanding, talented performing artist: a band, singer, or solo artist...a newcomer or veteran...raw or polished — the "gem" that needs to be discovered. Unsigned Only is looking for the total package. Judging criteria includes vocals, performance, songwriting, and originality.

Completely separate and distinct from ISC, Unsigned Only is a fresh and novel approach to other music competitions. Not only does it offer great prizes, recognition, exposure, and the chance to be heard by a group of judges consisting of high-profile recording artists and industry professionals, but it also takes it a step further and puts the Grand Prize winner in direct, personal contact with the influential record label executives who are the ultimate decision makers. For the first time ever, a music competition offers the Grand Prize winner the unprecedented opportunity to be mentored by a group of record company presidents, A&R reps, and more. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for an artist to directly network with the top echelon of record company professionals and get guidance, advice, feedback, and networking opportunities.

The founders of Unsigned Only, Jim Morgan and Candace Avery, talk about the new venture: "We are pleased to introduce a new music competition of this caliber to artists throughout the world. Having worked with a wide variety of artists over many years, we know that what artists want most is access to record label professionals. However, it is virtually impossible for most up-and-coming artists to have direct access to this elite and elusive group of decision makers. So, Unsigned Only is offering the unprecedented opportunity for the Grand Prize winner to network with and be mentored by a prestigious group of record label executives. This has never been done before, and we are excited about the possibilities it affords the Unsigned Only winner."

The judging panel is comprised of an impressive group of recording artists, producers, and top-level music journalists. They include: 3 Doors Down; Manchester Orchestra; Cyndi Lauper; Robert Smith (The Cure); Jeremy Camp; Craig Morgan; Kelly Clarkson; Steve Lillywhite (Producer); Matt and Kim; St. Vincent; The Mountain Goats; Josh Jackson (Co-Founder and Editor-In-Chief, Paste Magazine); Scott Lapatine (Founder, Stereogum); and more to be announced.

The panel of mentors who have signed on to participate is equally impressive. Included are: Monte Lipman (President of Universal Republic); Pete Ganbarg (Executive Vice President/Head of A&R, Atlantic Records); David Wolter (Senior VP of A&R, RCA Records); Kim Stephens (President, Forward Entertainment and A&R/Capitol Music Group); Trevor Jerideau (VP of A&R, J Records); David Wilkes (VP of A&R, eOne Music); Pete Giberga (Head of A&R, Razor & Tie Records); Jason Geter (President, Grand Hustle Records); and more to be announced.

The Grand Prize Winner will be awarded \$5,000 in cash (plus additional prizes) and one-on-one mentoring by an elite group of record company executives. First Place and Second Place winners will also be selected in each category. Entries are being accepted now until March 5, 2012. Winners will be announced in July, 2012. Categories include: AAA (Adult Album Alternative), AC (Adult Contemporary), Christian Music, Country, Folk/Singer-Songwriter, R&B/Hip-Hop, Rock, Pop/Top 40, and Vocal Performance.

All entries must be original music except for the Vocal Performance category which accepts original or cover songs. Judging criteria in the Vocal Performance category will be based solely on the quality of the vocals, thereby allowing singers who do not write their own songs the opportunity to enter.

For more information, please contact Candace Avery at 615.251.4441 or cavery@unsignedonly.com. For entry and general information, please go to <http://www.unsignedonly.com>



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