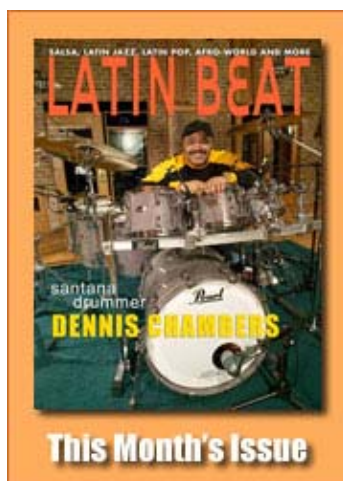




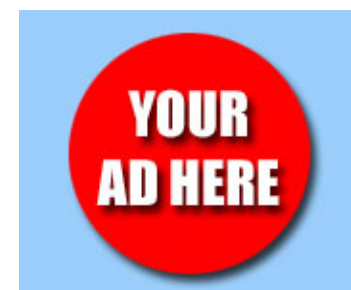
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**INSPIRATION FROM THE ARTS**  
*FUNDRAISING FOR FINANCIAL ACCESS*

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

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



## NOVEMBER 2010 ISSUE

# Columns ⊕⊕⊕

## QUÉ PASA IN LA

By Rudy Mangual

As part of our annual percussion/drum issue, which we celebrate every November in conjunction with National Drum Month, we would like to congratulate and salute all the percussionists and drummers that call the west coast home. In Northern California we salute the Escovedo family (Sheila, Pete, Juan and Peter Michael), Orestes Vilató (bandleader/legend), Karl Perazzo (Santana/Avance), Raul Rekow (Santana), Carlos Caro (Avance), Jesús Díaz (bandleader/master drummer), John Santos (bandleader/master drummer), Edgardo Cambón (bandleader), Akira Tana (master drummer), Kenny Endo (master drummer), Ndugu Chancelor (master drummer), and Walfredo de



**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](#)

los Reyes (drum legend).

In Los Angeles we acknowledge Poncho Sánchez (Grammy recipient bandleader), Alex Acuña (bandleader/master drummer), Luis Conte (bandleader/Dancing With the Stars Band), Kevin Ricard (American Idol Band/The Tonight Show Band/Sambaguru/Lucky 7 Mambo), Wally de Los Reyes (Steve Winwood), Richie "Gajate" Garcia (Hiroshima), Joey D'León (Poncho Sánchez/Queen Latifah/Lucky 7 Mambo), Tiki Pasillas (Marc Anthony/Susie Hansen Latin Band), Bobby Matos (bandleader), Louie Cruz Beltran (bandleader), Fausto Cuevas (bandleader/Stevie Wonder/Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad), Jimmy Branly (Gonzalo Rubalcaba/Mamborama), Joey Heredia (bandleader/Tania María), Justin Posee (Ozomatli), Angelo Rodríguez (bandleader /Lucky 7 Mambo/Oskar Cartaya & Enclave), Rubén Estrada (bandleader), Rubén "Cougar" Estrada (Los Lobos), José "Papo" Rodríguez (Eddie Palmieri/Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad), Nengue Hernández (Mongo Santamaría/Mamborama/Santana), Jiro Yamaguchi (Ozomatli), Freddie Crespo (bandleader/Jazz On the Latin Side), Raul Rico (Estrada Brothers), Robertito Melendez (Bobby Matos Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble), Mario Calire (Ozomatli), Craig Fundyga (Lucky 7 Mambo), César Espinoza (Chino Espinoza y Los Dueños del Son), George Ortiz (Poncho Sánchez/Son Mayor), Tony Alba (Charanga Cubana), Alfred "El Niño" Ortiz (Bongo Logic/Son Mayor), Ernie Valenzuela (Orquesta Oye), Melena (bandleader), Eddie del Rio (Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad/Janine Puente), Brett Gollin (bandleader/Bongo Logic) and Angel Lebrón (bandleader).

In San Diego we salute Joe Constanzo (Mr. Bongo/bandleader), Luis Cuenca, Victor Tapia, Michael Cannon and Camilo Moreno (B-Side Players) and Gene Perry (bandleader).

Thanks for living to the beat of the drum and making wonderful music. Ran Kan Kan!

Around town in November: The Invaders Tour 2010 comes to town on November 12th at The Quiet Cannon in the city of Montebello showcasing salsa, merengue and bachata. Headlining the event will be Victor Manuelle, Elvis Crespo, Bachata Heightz, N'Klave, Our Latin Thing, Zone D'Tambora, and Ivan La Voz

Antonio Cartagena y Orquesta will be performing at the Hollywood Park Casino in Inglewood on November 13th.

"Mambo in the Park/Pachanga en Pershing Square" takes place on Sunday, November 21st starting at 2 pm, presented by Pershing Square's Downtown On Ice. Music will be provided by Bobby Matos & His Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble. This is a free event and Pershing Square is located at Olive Street and 5th Street in Downtown Los Angeles (90013).

The Normandie Casino in the city of Gardena features Salsa Dancing every Wednesday night with Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad, plus DJ Saoco. Doors open at 8 pm with salsa dance class at 8:30 pm with none other than the fantastic Walter Jones. Live music starts at 10 pm. Free parking and \$2 valet parking available. This is a 21 and over only with ID event.

**Quicktime**

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**Maña**

Tranquilito

[Windows Media](#)[Quicktime](#)

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**Santiago Ceron**

Besos de Hada

[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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**Siempre Salsa All Stars**

Salsa Para Siempre

[Windows Media](#)[Quicktime](#)

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DJ Karloz presents Salsa Pre-Thanksgiving Bash dance party on November 24th featuring the live music of Sangre Nueva and Conjunto Afro Son at Sevilla Restaurant & nightclub in Long Beach.

Directly from Cuba, Los Van Van are scheduled to perform at The Conga Room in L.A. Live on December 2nd.

Albert Torres presents the 1st Annual World Latin Dance Cup on December 14th through 18th, 2010 at The Town & Country Resort Convention Center in San Diego, California. Between 700 to 900 competitors from over 35 countries are expected to register and participate in this special dance event. There will be 15 Cup divisions. Head judge of event is Billy Fajardo. For more information, contact Albert Torres at [atevents@gmail.com](mailto:atevents@gmail.com).

Support your local artists and their venues. Live music and arts rock! Peace.



## A BITE FROM THE APPLE

By Vicki Solá

Percussionist Tomás Martín López has released the CD *On The Beat Path*, featuring Bill O'Connell, Rubén Rodríguez, Jimmy Branly, Joel Rosenblatt, Matt Finley, Vito Speranza, Iván Renta and Bill McBemie.

"I produced this CD", says López, "with the idea of bringing a continued presence of Latin/Brazilian jazz that's enjoyable to listen to, and engaging enough for the public."

López, back from a world tour with the Grammy-nominated New Swing Sextet, was born in Brooklyn to Puerto Rican parents, in a music-filled home. "Further inspiration", recalls López, "came from living in Puerto Rico as a young child."

As a teenager, he attended the East Harlem Music School, and then studied with Fred Munar, Bobby Paunetto's timbalero. Demonstrating already his proficiency on a variety of percussion instruments, he began playing with various New York salsa bands, and that is when Roberto Rodríguez, Sr. and Tito Allen encouraged him to utilize his vocal talents.



He has performed and/or recorded with Billy Cobham, Mark Egan, Louie Ramírez, Ray de la Paz, Lalo Rodríguez, Paquito Guzmán, Adalberto Santiago, Felo Barrio, Cheo Feliciano, Ismael Miranda, Azuquita, Oscar Hernández, Jerry Galante, and Orquesta Broadway. He has traveled as a musician throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia.



Percussionist Cristian Rivera remembers climbing on the stove to get to his father's radio on top of the refrigerator. "In high school", he says, "I dug deep into my father's record collection — 78s and 45s of Isaac Hayes, Marvin Gaye, Eddie Hendricks, and Curtis Mayfield. I also found Héctor Lavoe, Tito Puente, Cal Tjader, Ray Barretto, Joe Bataan, and the Fania All-Stars."

Rivera's fascination with the conga drums drove him to emulate the rhythms he heard. "Watching Ray Barretto in 'Our Latin Thing'," he says, "was

basically how I learned to play the conga's 'tumbao'. That particular Barretto-style 'tumbao' is the one I use to this day."

A Giovanni Hidalgo concert inspired him to save for a pair of congas. He studied with Johnny Almendra at Boys Harbor, and at the age of 19, after only two years of playing, he competed, along with Pedro Martínez and Samuel Torres, in the 2000 Thelonius Monk Hand Drum Competition, in which he was selected as a finalist. He began to hang out at gigs, videotaping his musical heroes, and then studying the footage for hours. And he practiced six hours daily!

Rivera learned to play Latin jazz while sitting in with Chris Washburne & SYOTOS (and in the big band style, with Bobby Sanabria). He is currently working with Washburne, Jimmy Delgado, and Frankie Morales, while subbing in the bands of Willie Colón and La India. In fact, Rivera has performed and/or recorded with The Latin Giants, Larry Harlow, Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz, Rubén Blades, Hilton Ruiz, Wynton Marsalis, Luis "Perico" Ortiz, Adalberto Santiago, Néstor Torres, The Xavier Cugat Orchestra, Cándido Camero, Justo Betancourt, and Dave Valentín—just to name a few!

**DJ Jeff's "Hot Pick of the Month":** *Nayibe's Carasvemos.*





The Latin-Jazz Coalition founder, trombonist/composer **Demetrios Kastaris** has organized a new ensemble: **Conjunto Katharí** (featuring four trombones and sonero Sammy Navarro) will make its world debut on December 10th, at Flushing Town Hall. His Latin-Jazz Coalition will also perform. This is how Kastaris, aka "El Griego Rumbero" explains it: "Twenty-three artists in the two overlapping orchestras will perform Afro-Cuban jazz, uniquely Puerto Rican salsa and bomba, bebop, Latin gospel music provided by Conjunto Katharí (meaning 'ensemble of the pure and clean'), and Greek folkloric music, in both original and hybrid forms."

Also participating in the concert, billed as "Afro-Cuban Fire, Spiritual Oil and Greek Cooking", are trombonist/conch shell player Steve Turré, and (making his U.S. debut) Yannis Economides, trumpeter and founder of Greece's top Latin band (Aroma Caribe), whom Kastaris describes as "a pioneer and avid promoter of Afro-Cuban jazz in Europe." Fourteen year-old prodigy Theofilos Katechis will treat the audience to the sounds of the bouzouki, a Turkish instrument traditionally used in Greek music.

"After over three decades of tireless work" reflects Kastaris, "the day has finally come for us to bring to fruition a very unique, historic, cultural concert that will hopefully have a profound impact on New York City's music scene. I've always had an immense and profound passion for the genres we'll be presenting in a marvelous blend."

Kastaris is excited about his fourteen-piece Conjunto Katharí. "The power and beauty of trombones captured my attention early on, when I heard the live concerts of Willie Colón and Héctor Lavoe. Their deep influence on us will be noted in our music, with the difference being that the words of Conjunto Katharí are gospel-based."

Further information is available at (718) 463-7700, ext. 222 or at [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org), and [www.thelatinjazzcoalition.com](http://www.thelatinjazzcoalition.com).

### Around town...



This past October 10th, Orquesta Broadway (featuring guest artists Andrea Brachfeld and Karen Joseph) packed the Tropicana. On November 21st, this Bronx venue will present Charanga America.... The West Gate Lounge's roster includes Tito Rojas (Nov. 6th), and Tony Vega (Nov. 27th). Gilberto Santa Rosa is slated to perform at C.W. Post's Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on November 20th. ¡Hasta la próxima!



## LB MUSIC UPDATE

By Nelson Rodríguez

Believe it or not: 2010 is almost over, and we have enjoyed some great music this year, along with some pretty lousy stuff, but the good outweighed the bad. Latin jazz made a late run in the year, and we also saw certain format changes in new music releases (MP3's and small carton CD cases).

The "Recording of the Month" has to be the **Spanish Harlem Orchestra's** new CD, *Viva La*

*Tradición*, which contains one hit after another including, *La Herencia Latina*, *Baila Latino*, *Rumba Urbana*, *La Salsa Dura*, *El Negro Tiene Tumbao* (with Issac Delgado), *Sí Me Quieres Te Quiero*, *La Fiesta Empezó* and *Cómo Baila Mi Mulata*. The big surprise here is the replacement of Willie Torres by Carlos Cascante on lead vocals. I had been telling various bandleaders about this great young vocalist who was "discovered" at the LA Salsa Congress some years ago, singing with the band directed by none other than Oscar Hernández.

**Yolanda Duke's** *Many Moods*, accompanied by the Tito Puente Orchestra (originally recorded in 2008) is finally out, with the majority of tunes sung by Duke in English, and featuring her duet with José Alberto "El Canario" on "La Peleona". This CD should do well at both salsa and jazz stations.

Coincidentally, **El Canario's** new CD (*El Original*) has not hit the streets yet, but I bet it will also do very well when it becomes available, particularly in consideration of the tracks *Cada Uno Con Lo Suyo*, *Unidos*, *La Calle*, *Elige Tú Que Canto Yo*, and *Somos Dos* (with Raúlín Rosendo).

Some great CD reissues include **Ray Barretto's** LP *Latino Con Soul*, which generated *Trompeta Con Trombón* (a subsequent huge hit for the Fania All-Stars), and the classic *Happy Birthday Everybody*.

**Ismael Miranda y su Orquesta La Revelación's** LP "Así Se Compone Un Son" is also available on CD format, and full of hits such as the title track, "Nicolasa", and "Mulence", "Ahora Si", among others.

My favorite **Lebrón Brothers' album**, *Salsa y Control*, is now available in a re-mastered CD format, as well as the **Ismael Rivera LP** *Esto Fue Lo Que Trajo el Barco* (which contains the tracks *Dime Por Qué* and *Traigo Salsa*).

**Son del Salón** is a so-called "típico" band (a band specializing in the Cuban son) from France. It's made up of various French musicians and vocalist/percussionist Julio David López Pérez.

Veterans **Octavio Figueroa and Willy Cadenas** have been playing regularly in Los Angeles with their band (**LA Combinación Salsa Band**), whose new CD, *La Luna y El Toro*, is a great salsa dance project. Look for the tunes *Trátame Como Soy*, *A La Memoria del Muerto*, *La Guarapachanga*, and *Qué Dichoso Es*, in addition to the title track.



The Latin jazz genre has been very fruitful recently. Pianist **Daniel Amat's** CD *Bilbao, La Habana y Vuelta* (released on Emerson Bran's new label) features guests Chucho Valdés, Orlando "Maraca" Valle, and Daniel's own father — Pancho Amat. It exhibits a superb display of piano ingenuity by the younger Amat that should garner him many nominations.

**Phil Hawkins** specializes on the use of steel pans, and his CD *Sugarcane Suite* — featuring the VW Brothers, Michael Spiro, Randy Brecker, Karl Perazzo, Murray Low and Ray Obiedo — contains several good Afro-Cuban tunes, along with some jazz-influenced music from Trinidad and Brazil.

Throughout the year 2010, we have seen many Latinos recording straight-up jazz, with bits of Latin flair added here and there, and this month I'll add **Luis Bonilla's** *Twilight* to that list. As a trombonist and composer, Bonilla excels and exhibits incredible creativity in the straight-ahead style.

Another surprise comes from trumpeter **Steve Rusch**, who played with many Latin bands in Los Angeles, including a long stint with the one led by Willie Bobo. Back in 1985, during one of his numerous trips to San Francisco, he recorded the LP *Serenata*, now issued in CD format by Jazzschool Recordings, as part of the Bay Area Jazz Archives. Rusch's 1985 quintet featured Mark Levine, Michael Spiro, Vince Lateano and David Belove.

**Giro** was a huge star in the 1990s with his classic hit *Amor Lunático*, and now returns to the music scene with *Todavía Hay Amor*, a disc that has already scored a hit in Puerto Rico — "Islas En El Mar", featuring la India.

Special mention has to be given to some new young talent serviced to us by **Willie Otero's Latinos Unidos Record Pool**: Orquesta Mazacote (*Salsa Caliente*), Orquesta La Diferente (*De Frente*), vocalists Frederman Franco (*Amándonos*), Irving Manuel (*Todo Mi Amor Eres Tú*), Vashti Sivell (*Uniendo Mundos*) and Moisés González (*Relatos*).

Add to that list the veterans Rubby Pérez (*Genial*), Sergio Vargas (*Amores Viejos, Nuevos y de Medio Uso*), Juan Luis Guerra & 440 (*Al Son de Guerra*), "Celia Cruz y sus Amigos", Paulo FG (*Sin Etiqueta*), Huey Dunbar (*IV*) and Lazarito Valdes & Bamboleo (*Vengo a Lo Cubano*) for a good mixture of old and new!



## 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 cantando 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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