

Carlos Cascante y su Tumbao

LATIN SEXTET

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From Left to Right: Pedro Vargas (congas), Julio Jáuregui (piano, musical director), Carlos Cascante (vocal), Jeff Busch (drums), Thomas Marriott (trumpet), Dean Schmidt (bass).

BIOGRAPHIES



Carlos Cascante was born in the small town of Liberia, Costa Rica into a family of musicians and artists. In 1996 Carlos was invited to join the well established folkloric group Grupo Lo Nuestro lead by Fernell López, and also a salsa band by the name of Caliente. After arriving in Seattle Carlos joined a salsa band by the name of Nueva Era with whom he shared the stage with well known artists including Lalo Rodríguez, Maelo Ruiz, Héctor Tricoche, David Pabón, and Peruvian vocalist Melcochita. In 2003, Julio and Carlos decided to create a six piece Latin ensemble by the name of "Tumbao", with the idea to further explore Jazz and Latin music. Carlos also joined Latin Expression, where he had the pleasure to open for stars like Oscar D' León, Joe Arroyo, Fulanito, Caña Brava, Adolescents and others. In 2001, Carlos performed with Fania All Stars' pianist Larry Harlow as lead singer at the Seattle Latin Sea Fair. Carlos was honored to be part of the Seattle Salsa All stars event next to such artist as Joe Santiago, Doug Beavers, Giovanni Hidalgo, Pablito 'El Indio' Rosario, Ivan Renta, Julio Jáuregui, Rafael Aparicio and Luis de Jesus. In 2004, he recorded a CD with Latin Expression in Colombia in collaboration with Diego Gale's musicians. Carlos Cascante is a well versed Latin vocalist. His love for the music radiates while he is on stage. He easily connects with the crowds and his joy ignites the life of those who enjoy listening and dancing to Latin rhythms.

Julio Jáuregui was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Julio grew up in México City. His mother, Mireya López, also a pianist, instilled in him the passion for music. Julio attended the National School of Music from 1984-1987 where his focus of study was percussion. In Eugene, Oregon he performed with Caliente, a local salsa band. He became the musical director of Caliente in 1992. He was also part of a folk band named Sandunga. Julio also joined forces with percussionist Mingo Lewis (Santana's Drummer) and was part of "Combination to Go." Julio also became a member of other ensembles such as La Mayor, salsa band, Atmosphere, jazz trio. Julio moved to Seattle in 1997. He joined Latin Expression and Matices and became the musical director of both. He also created Cambalache with Camilo Suárez. Julio has recorded with Children of the Revolution, Guil Guimaraes, Jeff Busch, Nueva Era and others. He was part of Joe Santiago's Salsa all stars concert in 2003 in which he performed with Giovanni Hidalgo, Joe Santiago, Giovanni Lugo, Pablito "El Indio" Rosario and others. Tumbao has given him the freedom to experiment with many avenues and performance formats.



PRESS:

"The nice thing about Tumbao is it's not just another salsa band playing airy dance music. Anchored by piano player Julio Jáuregui, the band keeps one foot firmly planted in Latin jazz as it roams various dance beats. As singer Carlos Cascante said, during a between-sets break, 'We try to touch a little bit of the Latin flavor and the Caribbean flavor and also keep the jazz flavor.'"

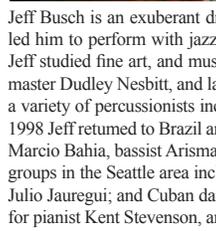
-- Tom Scanlon / The Seattle Times



Trumpeter Thomas Marriott is one of the most exciting musicians to emerge on the national jazz scene in more than a decade. Solo efforts on his recent albums and performances with luminaries such as Rosemary Clooney, The Chico O'Farrell Orchestra, Ritchie Cole, Joe Locke & Kenny Kirkland, have gained him numerous awards and recognition throughout the music world. In 1999 he won the prestigious Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Competition sponsored by the International Trumpet Guild and the Herb Albert Foundation. Thomas Marriott, a Seattle native, first gained attention with the 1997 release of his first album "Open Season." The Album won Seattle jazz radio KPLU's top pick for that year. In 2000, Thomas joined the Maynard Ferguson Big Band, and relocated to New York City. he also performed with The Tito Puente Orchestra, Eric Reed, Brian Lynch, Bebo Valdez, Eddie Palmieri and many others. Now making Seattle his home once again, Thomas is a member of many ensembles including the Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra, and has released his first solo album "Individuation" on the Origin Records label. Thomas Marriott is a C.G.Conn sponsored artist & clinician.

Carlos Cascante y su Tumbao, Recuerdos (Bettrmusic). In the flood of Latin jazz CDs, Cascante's stands out for its spirit, good humor and variety within the idiom. The singer, a Costa Rican who lives in the US, leads his quintet through montuno, salsa, chacha and other clave patterns. Over group vocals and arrangements by the band's music director, Julio Jáuregui, Cascante sings infectiously with intonation as reliable as his time. Jáuregui is an impressive piano soloist. Drummer Jeff Busch, bassist Dean Schmidt and conga drummer Frank Jr. Medina drive the band. Thomas Marriott has blazing trumpet solos.

-- Doug Ramsey / The Jazz Times



Jeff Busch is an exuberant drummer/percussionist, vocalist, and composer whose passion or soulful music of varied traditions has led him to perform with jazz, blues, and gospel groups--as well as calypso, samba, and Cuban jazz ensembles. Between 1988-96, Jeff studied fine art, and music in Leeds, England. He studied percussion and drum set with Dave Hassel, calypso with steel drum master Dudley Nesbitt, and later Brazilian percussion with Jesse Bannister. In 1997, Jeff spent six months in Brazil and studied with a variety of percussionists including Edmilson Costa Teixeira, Gilo do Pandeiro, and Mestres Memeu and Lazaro from Olodum. In 1998 Jeff returned to Brazil and had the opportunity to play and perform with the Jovino Santos Neto group which included drummer Marcio Bahia, bassist Arismar do Espirito Santo, and saxophonist Hans Teuber. Currently Jeff continues to perform with a variety of groups in the Seattle area including the Jovino Santos Neto quinteto; Cuban jazz groups Rumba Abierta, and Tumbao led by pianist Julio Jáuregui; and Cuban dance band Mango Son, led by Roberto Sanchez. He is the drummer at First AME church, and also plays for pianist Kent Stevenson, and gospel singer Patrinell Wright.

"They are just an incredible group of musicians..."

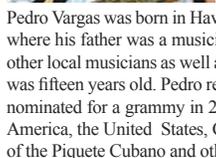
-- Hallie Kuperman / Century Ballroom



Dean Schmidt is one of the most sought after bassists in the Northwest, well versed in all styles of music. He studied music in Los Angeles to at the prestigious Musicians Institute of Technology. Through many world class musicians at MIT he was exposed to different idioms such as jazz, latin, brazilian and world music. After spending six years in Los Angeles playing with different bands, he was hired by the legendary James Burton (Elvis Presly's guitarist) for a year stint in Waikiki, Hawaii. After Hawaii he relocated to Seattle using this city as his home base for his career as a freelance and studio bassist. Known for his solid time feel and choice of notes he was hired out for international tours in Turkey, South East Asia and Japan, also performing with singer extraordinaire Jane Powell on Norwegian Cruise Line. In the last two years he has performed with legend Pat Boone and LA based jazz group The David Becker Tribune.

"Tumbao is a six-piece Latin ensemble that plays a variety of rhythms from Boleros to Timba and Joropo to Danzón. Their exhilarating Latin American and Caribbean music helps kick off outdoor concerts on the City Hall Plaza in a festive style. Tumbao is comprised of some of the Seattle area's finest musicians who hale from Costa Rica, Mexico, Kenmore, Panama, Puerto Rico, & Pullman. The Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs hosts "Seattle Presents" free lunchtime concerts every first and third Thursday at Seattle City Hall. The spring and summer performances feature some of Seattle's best performers."

-- Seattle's Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs



Pedro Vargas was born in Havana, Cuba. Pedro grew up in Bahia Honda, a small town in the Pinar Del Rio province of western Cuba, where his father was a musician. Pedro started playing the congas when he was eight years old, learning by watching his father and other local musicians as well as the great Cuban percussionists Tata Guines and Changuito. Pedro started playing the bongos when he was fifteen years old. Pedro recorded two discs with Barbarito Torres, "Havana Café" and the self titled "Barbarito Torres," which was nominated for a grammy in 2003. Pedro toured with the Piquete Cubano for five years. He has played in Europe, Central and South America, the United States, Canada, and Japan. Pedro most recently recorded in Cuba with Tradicuba, a group made up of members of the Piquete Cubano and other Havana musicians. Pedro arrived in Seattle in December, 2004.

CD "Recuerdos" is highly recommended.

-- Peter Watrous, 2005-11-18
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