

## Percussion & Band Leader :

Carlos Medrano born in Havana, Cuba, began his musical studies by teaching himself to play Bongos and Congas using traditional Cuban music and Rumba as his guide. After a few years of studying, experience, and having participated in folkloric musical projects and timba, also known as Cuban Salsa, he decided to broaden his musical knowledge by beginning a course of musical studies in the Escuela de Superacion Profesional de Arte "Felix Varela y Morales" where he began to create his foundation for Latin Jazz fusion within other musical projects in Cuba. He remembers with great satisfaction and happiness having been a student of famous international Cuban percussionists such as Jose Antonio Oviedo, Ignacio Jarabe Martinez, Eliel Lazo Linares, Yaroldy Abreu, José Luis Quintana, also known as Changuito. He has also had the satisfaction of meeting some of the finalists of the International Barreto en Memoria competition in Havana, Cuba also known as La Fiesta del Tambor in 2005. He had the opportunity to play in several 'Big Bands' directed by Jorge Luis Triana for the inauguration and participation of the International Jazz Festival "Jazz Plaza" in Havana Cuba. He worked with Cuban saxophonist, Orlando Sanchez, also known as Cuba Jazz, Danay Bautista, Bobby Carcases. Before arriving to the United States in March 2008, he worked with a well-known pianist from Cuba, Alexis Bosch. Since then, he has been working with several bands in the Bay Area such : Yosvany Terry, Pellejo Seco, Jesus Diaz Latin Ensemble and Rumberos All Stars, Tito y su Son de Cuba. The Canadian folk band The Duhks. Performances include: San Jose Jazz Festival; 2009 Cuba Caribe Festival held in San Francisco celebrating Cuban folklore; the 2010 San Francisco Carnival; 2011 Benecia Jazz Festival and Russian River Jazz and Blues Festival; 2013 Santa Rosa Junior College Cuban Music and Film Festival, Healdsburg Jazz Festival, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Yoshi's Jazz Club, and the 2015 Russian River Jazz and Blues Festival, Sonoma State University, Green Music Center, World One Radio Festival, Sonoma County Cuban Film Festival, Oxnard Salsa Festival,

## Trombone :

Doug Leibinger is a trombonist, composer, and educator; he is Jazz Program Director at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA. He was a trombone soloist on the University of Miami Concert Jazz Band's recording of Maria Schneider's Three Romances, which was nominated for a Grammy award in 2004. Doug's composition, "Ring Shout," was performed at the 2nd International Jazz Composer's Symposium in Tampa, FL. His residence in South Florida for 18 years led to professional engagements in a wide variety of styles. His credits include Randy Brecker, Jon Faddis, Claire Fischer, Maria Schneider, Chayanne, Sean "P Diddy" Combs, Jose Luis "El Puma" Rodriguez, Jimmy Buffett, Sam Moore, Les Elgart, Jerry Lewis, Peter Cetera, Royal Crown Revue and many more.

## Drums :

Colin Douglas began playing music at the young age of eleven years old. Born into a musical family, he experimented with many different instruments as a child but soon was drawn to drums and percussion. As a student he was exposed to many diverse styles studying everything from classical percussion, to rock, jazz and funk. Douglas eventually attended both the acclaimed Lawrence University Conservatory of Music as well as the Manhattan School of Music. After college he became deeply interested in afro-cuban music and after moving to the San Francisco bay area began an extensive of Cuban folkloric percussion with esteemed instructor Michael Spiro, as well as many other master Cuban teachers. As a professional drumset artist and percussionist Mr. Douglas has performed and recorded with an extensive list of diverse artists such as the Wayne Wallace Quintet, Jesus Diaz y su Qba, Chuchito Valdez, Donna Summer, Slash, Enrique Bunbury, Eddie Palmieri, and many others.

## Piano : Julio Cesar

Born in Cuba Julio started playing professionally at the age of 16. Played in successful rock bands who were signed @EMI records in 1968 and Polydor records in 1970. Later, he moved to the Bay Area in 1973 where he has performed and recorded with several artists, including: Pharoah Sanders, Richie Cole, Joyce Cooling, Lester Chambers (Chamber Brothers), Tom Johnston (Doobie Brothers), Lenny Williams (Tower of Power), Malo, Kitty Margolis, Lidya Pence (Cold Blood), Taj Mahal, Larry Harlow, Tito Nieves, Tito Puente, Rey Pedro Conga, Benny Velarde, Loui Romero, Tony Vega, and Avance. His most recent performances as a touring artist include Grupo Mono Blanco de Veracruz de Mexico.

## Bass : Ernesto Mazar

With the city of Santiago de Cuba as his hometown, Ernesto's career came as second nature as he was submerged into the musical world. He began music studies at the age of eight and was always interested in the sound of "that big piece of wood with strings". In 2004, Ernesto moved to Havana to attend the prestigious University Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), where he graduated with a degree in Classical Double Bass. In 2006, Ernesto became the bass player of the internationally popular group David Calzado y su Charanga Habanera. He has traveled the world performing and recording on various albums. In August 2014, Ernesto moved with his wife to San Francisco, CA.