

César López



Alto and Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Vocal
Arrangement and Composition



Biography

La Habana, 1968

César López, considered one of the most important sax players in the Latin Jazz, started studying music when he was 10. Only three years later, he won the 1st Prize in the Cuban Nacional Sax Contest. In 1985 he got a scholarship at the Escuela Nacional de Arte (National Arts School) and, simultaneously, started his professional career with renowned Cuban musician Bobby Carcasés, who introduced César to Latin Jazz.

In 1988, due to his outstanding conditions as a musician, 19 years old César was chosen by Maestro Chucho Valdés to play the sax for the famous Cuban band Irakere. During 9 years César developed a fruitful international career with this Grammy awarded band, performing at the most prestigious festivals, theaters and clubs, which gave him the

possibility of sharing the stage with Jazz stars like Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Gladys Knight, Chick Corea, Branford and Winston Marsalis, Michel Camilo, Paquito de Rivera, Tito Puente, Arturo Sandoval, Al Pimeola y otros.

In 1997, César, who has been distinguished by the critics as the Cuban Charlie Parker, decided to form his own band, "Habana Ensemble". From the very beginning, its members were within the most talented Cuban musicians. Habana Ensemble displays new elements, in both their musical and the aesthetic concepts, making them different to other Cuban bands. The young, talented members of Cesar's band, show amazing performances at their instruments, being qualified as "virtuosos".

Habana Ensemble has a repertoire full of classics of the Jazz and the Cuban Music, which they mix with a contemporary sound where improvisations have a remarkable place, making each of their interpretations a masterpiece.

With Habana Ensemble, César López has had continued success, both national and internationally. In 2006, his CD "Andante" (BisMusic), obtained the Prize to the Best Jazz Album at the major Cuban Event for the Music Industry, Cubadisco. Cubadisco 2008 set a hallmark in César López career: the CD + DVD "Clásicos de Cuba" (BisMusic), displaying classics Cuban songs arranged for Habana Ensemble and The Chamber Orchestra of Havana, was awarded with the Prize to the Best Instrumental Album and Best "in situ" recording, which deserved the **Cubadisco's Special Prize**. This constitutes an acknowledgement to the extraordinary job developed by these artists during their first decade of existence.

César López keeps its constant activity, delighting the public and the specialized critics with new projects. In 2009 he released "Cubop" (Kamita Records, Japan), an acoustic album with some of the most talented Cuban jazz players (Rolando Luna at the piano and Jorge Reyes on the bass -just to mention two-), a project they called "Los Cubanos".

In 2010, César López and Habana Ensemble are presenting their first studio album in 5 years: "Contrastes" ("Contrasts"). As César says in the introduction to the album, "this is a journey to the known history of Cuban rhythms: chachachá, bolero, guaguancó, son, conga and Cuban jazz". With their mastery, these musicians mix all these genres with Latin jazz, using a Quartet of Saxophones to create an amazing atmosphere, offering a strange mix of classic and contemporary sound.

Recently, he celebrated the 15 years anniversary of Habana Ensemble and recoded the DVD "LIVE" in March, 2012.

Festivals pariticipados:

- Playboy (USA)
- Newport Maradao (Japan)
- Tokio Jazz Fest (Japón)
- Yokohama Promenade (Japan)
- Morciac (France).
- Fest Latino Eurodisney (France).
- North Sea (Netherlands)
- Vitoria (Spain)
- Semana Negra (Spain)
- Carnaval de Barranquilla (Colombia)
- Carnaval de Veracruz (Mexico)
- Pori Jazz Fest (Finland)
- Molde Jazz Fest (Norway)
- Heineken Jazz Fest (Dominican Rep.)
- Umbria Jazz Fest
- Roma Jazz Fest (Italy)
- Barbados Jazz Fest (Barbados)
- Folklorama (Canada)

Clubes y Teatros:

- Teatro Teresa Carreño (Venezuela)
- Barbican; Dominion; Ronnie Scott (UK)
- Memorial de las Américas (Brasil)
- Plaza del Zócalo; Auditorio Nacional; Mama Rumba (Mexico)
- Blue Note (Tokyo, Japan)
- SOB's; Cristal; Filtmore (USA)
- Guanábana (Argentina)
- Malecón (Spain)
- New Morning (France)
- Cuasimodo; La FabriK (Germany)
- Fastchin (Switzerland)

Universidades y Conservatorios donde ha impartido clases:

- Universidad de Banff Center (Canadá)
- Universidad del Atlántico (Colombia)
- Conservatorio de Cali (Colombia)
- Universidad Rítmica (Dinamarca)
- Instituto Superior de Arte (Cuba)
- Conservatorio de la Coruña (España)

Músicos con los que ha compartido escenario:

- Cuba: Chucho Valdés, Iván del Prado, Richard Egües, Silvio Rodríguez, Pablo Milanés, Omara Portuondo, Compay Segundo, Paquito D' Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional, Leo Brower, Juan Formell y Los Van Van, Bebo Valdés.
- España: El Cigala, Victor Manuel, Retama
- Orquesta de la Radio de Dinamarca
- Orquesta Sinfónica de Cali, Colombia.
- EEUU: Al Dimeola, Tito Puentes, Lew Tabackin, Ballet de Washington, Wayne Shorter, Dianne Reeves, Steve Coleman, Herbie Hancock, Roy Hargrove.
- Brasil: Joao Donato, Ivan Lins, Hermeto Pascual, Yamandu Acosta
- Sting (UK)

Discography:

César López & Habana Ensemble



LIVE

2012



CONTRASTES

Bis Music/2010



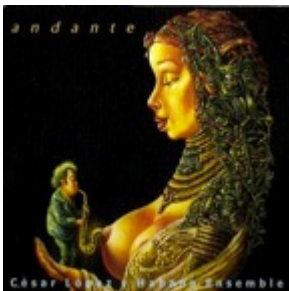
CLASICOS DE CUBA

Bis Music/2008



CLASICOS DE CUBA (DVD+CD)

Bis Music/2008



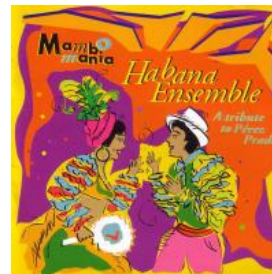
ANDANTE

Bis Music/2005



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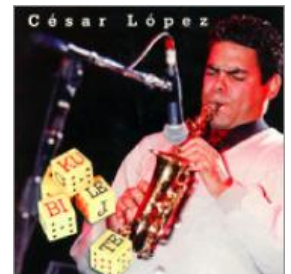
Latin World/2000



MAMBO MANIA

Tribute to Perez prado

Latin World/1998



KUBILETE/C. Lopez

Unicornio/2000



CUBOP/Cubanos

Kamita Label/2010

Participations at the albums of "Chucho Valdés e IRAKERE"

- "INDESTRUCTIBLE" (EGREM)
- "BOLEROS INIGUALABLES" (EGREM)
- "CHUCHO VALDES E IVAN LINS EN VIVO" (EGREM)
- "AFROCUBANISMO" (Bembe Records/1996)
- "IRAKERE EN VIVO EN EL TERESA CARREÑO" (EGREM)
- "BABALU AYE" (EGREM)
- "LIVE AT RONNIE SCOTT'S" (Blue Note)
- "YEMAYA" (Blue Note/ EGREM)
- "LEGENDARIO IRAKERE vol.II"
- "IRAKERE EN NITEROI"
- "IRAKERE Y SILVIO EN CHILE" (EGREM)
- "30 ANOS" Irakere (EGREM, 2004)

César López & Habana Ensemble



Emilio Martí

--- Guitar

He was born in Villa Clara, 1972. He graduated from Provincial Art Trainer Institute in Santa Clara. After his graduation, he joined to “Panorama” band as Guitar player and Arranger. Also he joined to the first Rock band in Santa Clara City called “Alto Mando”. He continues as a guitar player in “Arte Vivo”, and time later, he founded his group “Stand By” as musical director and pianist as well. He started with Habana Ensemble in 2005.



José Hermida

--- Bass

He started his carrier as Bassist in 1981. He graduated from Amadeo Roldán Conservatory. In 1987, he entered to the Symphony Rock Band “Artevivo”, 1990, he joined to the Latin Jazz Band “Cauce”, which belongest at that time to the legendary Cuban pianist Emiliano Salvador. Also he supplied the bass player Orlando Lopez “Cachao” played the wood bass in “Violines de la Habana”. After then, he joined to “Afrocuba”. From 2006, he became a member of Habana Ensemble.



Ruly Herrera

--- Drums

He began as professional drummer with PolitoIbañez Band in 2000. He have been part of different kind of bands and projects through all his artistic trajectory, and he have shared the stage with celebrities like Chucho Valdes, Haydeemilanes, Bellita y Jazz Tumbata, El Greco y Top Secret, Robertico Carcacés, Kelvis Ochoa, Yusa y Pablo Milanes as well. He started with Habana Ensemble Band in 2009.



Otto Santana

--- Percussion

He was graduated from Higher Art Institute in 2011. From 2007 to 2009 he was professor of Percussion at AmadeoRoldan Conservatory. He have shared the stage with many important musicians from Cuba and different nationalities like Rudy Lopez-Nussa, Kelvis Ochoa, Alexander Abreu y Habana de Primera, Cucu Diamante, Calle 13 y Manu Chau, he was also part in the soundtrack of the Film 7 Days in Havana directed by Benicio del Toro. He is a member of Habana Ensemble since 2009.



Contacts



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