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Cuban Spectacular: From the Big Easy to the Big Apple: A Celebration of the Mambo

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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Free Music Concert Series

The Department of Music
Presents in Concert

The Cuban Spectacular "From the Big Easy to the Big Apple: A Celebration of the Mambo"

A Multi-Media Celebration
Featuring the University of Richmond
Jazz Ensemble, guest artists,
and dancers

Conducted by Dr. Mike Davison
Narrated by Walter Schoen

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
7:30 p.m.
Alice Jepson Theatre



MUSIC.RICHMOND.EDU

The Cuban Spectacular is a multi-media show combining narration, dance, live music, and video.

The Mambo

During the 1950s, the mambo craze began at the Palladium Ballroom, located on New York City's Broadway, and spread throughout the United States. Weekly dance competitions spurred inventive moves and attracted the most innovative bands, all playing the mambo! The "Big Three" bands of Machito and his Afro-Cubans, Tito Puente, and Tito Rodriguez packed the dance floor and played their versions of Latin jazz. The ballroom also featured pie-eating and skirt-raising contests, and the drug bosses were normally in attendance. Marlon Brando, Dizzy Gillespie, Sammy Davis Jr., and many other stars frequented the ballroom. The *New York Daily News* of May 6, 1951, printed the following: "Jungle madness is rampant on Broadway It is wild It is sexy ... It is mambo But the craze is spreading to other dance halls, and there is no telling where it may stop."

The Palladium was around the corner from many of the best bebop clubs, including Birdland, The Onyx, and CuBop City. Many of the beboppers would finish their gigs, walk a block or two, and listen to and perform with the greatest mambo bands of the time. It's not surprising that many of the jazz musicians started composing and performing Latin jazz! Tonight, Father Time will take us to New Orleans, a brief detour to Detroit's Motown, and end up in New York City. Cuban musician Mario Bauzá said, "It's American jazz on the top, and Cuban rhythms on the bottom" when referring to the American jazz phrasing and instrumentation blending with the Cuban percussion. Tonight, you will witness this mixing of sounds, and the colorful history of the blending of American jazz with Afro-Cuban rhythms. Sound has no borders! It will make you dance!

Notes by Mike Davison

PROGRAM

Closer Walk

Traditional
Arr. Mike Davison

Narration

Video: *son* and *clave*

Excerpt: *Cuba: Rhythm in Motion*
Mike Davison and Ed Tillett

Please silence cell phones, digital watches, and paging devices before the concert.

Lágrimas Negras

Miguel Matamoros

Mark Lusk, *trombone*

Narration

I Can't Stop Loving You

Don Gibson
Arr. Quincy Jones

Isfahan

Billy Strayhorn

Michael Wyatt, *alto sax*

Minnie the Moocher

Cab Calloway and Irving Mills

Georges Leconte, *vocal*
Mike Haliczzer, *trumpet*

Narration

Video: "Babalú" (Excerpt from *I Love Lucy*)

Margarita Lecuona

Sway

Pablo Beltrán Ruiz
Arr. Mark Taylor

Britta Loftus, *vocal*

Narration

Dancing in the Street

Marvin Gaye, Ivy Hunter, and William Stevenson
Arr. John Wasson

Britta Loftus, *vocal*

I Want You Back

Freddie Perren; Alphonso Mizell,
Berry Gordy, and Deke Richards
Arr. John Wasson

I Just Called to Say I Love You

Stevie Wonder
Arr. Michael Philip Mossman

Erin Vidlak, *vocal*

Continued...

Video: Dizzy Gillespie and Chano Pozo

Manteca

Dizzy Gillespie, Walter Gil Fuller, and Chano Pozo
Arr. Mike Tomaro

Narration

Birks' Works

Dizzy Gillespie
Arr. Mike Tomaro

Salsero Viejo

Jeff Jarvis

Adelieland

John Powell
Arr. Victor Lopez

Birks' Works

Traditional
Arr. Mike Davison

The Performers

UR Jazz Ensemble

Dr. Mike Davison, Conductor and Trumpet

Michael Wyatt	Alto Saxophone 1
Dennon Hoernig	Alto Saxophone 2
Brandon Kunick	Tenor Saxophone 1
Stephanie Wang	Tenor Saxophone 2
Nicole Devine	Baritone Saxophone
Laurel Wayne	Trumpet 1
Mike Haliczzer	Trumpet 1/4
Alex Payne	Trumpet 2
Rick McRae	Trumpet 3
Rich O'Flynn	Trumpet 4
AJ Bernstein	Trombone 1
Spencer Stokes	Trombone 2
Josh Tucker	Piano
Reuben Davis	Piano

Colby Heald	Bass
Mike Rafizadeh	Bass/Guitar
Quinn Hundgen	Guitar
Ben Schwartz	Drums
Chris Cassella	Drums
Kevin Perez	Percussion
Britta Loftus	Vocals
Erin Vidlak	Vocals
Georges Leconte	Vocals

Guest Artists

Santos Ramirez	Congas and Percussion
J.C. Kuhl	Tenor Saxophone
Mark Lusk	Trombone

Guest Dancers

Edwin Roa
Carolyn Moats

The Hanover High School Marching Hawks **Amy Birdsong, Director**

Alexander Campos	Bass Drum
Sarah Castle	Flute
Luke Chesley	Sousaphone
Wolfgang Copp	Trombone
Nathan Edwards	Trombone
Jonathan Falls	Trumpet
Conner Galla	Trombone
Josie Garner	Clarinet
Sam Harrison	Bass Drum
Bethany Lane	Trumpet
Keegan Lege	Sousaphone
George Maddox, Jr.	Percussion
Sam Pace	Trumpet
Patrick Randall	Percussion
Jordan Rock	Alto Saxophone
Seth Seward	Alto Saxophone
William Sherdel	Tenor Saxophone
Scott Strobel	Tenor Saxophone
Jarett Torok	Trumpet
Jimmy Trussell	Percussion
Reese Tunstall	Baritone Saxophone
Jonathan Waller	Snare Drum

Continued...

UR Salsa Meets Jazz Class (SSIR) Dancers
Co-taught by Mike Davison and Myra Daleng

Peyton Carter
Jordan Lloyd
Lexus Davis
Rachel Tang
Jason Dinsmore
Mariana Rosado
Nik Zapata
Ally Kiely
Lydia Dubois
Sarah Quagliariello
Minru Zhao
Allysa Joyce
Wendy Berrios

Modlin Center Crew

Production Manager	Sean Farrell
Lighting and Video	Pat Kraehenbuehl
Sound Engineer	Rob Richards

Show Credits

Video and Photos (from Cuba)	Brian Ross and Ed Tillett
Script, media edits, show concept	Mike Davison
Produced and directed by	Mike Davison

The Dancers

Edwin Roa has been dancing for over 15 years, focusing on the art of partner dancing. Part of his life's vision is to inspire others to dance through an unconventional technique called Zabor Dance. Zabor is a holistic approach to the teaching of partner dance, where the study of movement is complemented with the understanding of connectivity, music, and culture. Roa has left his dance "print" throughout Virginia by participating in many dance organizations, such as the Latin Ballet of Virginia. He is the co-founder of the Charlottesville Salsa Club and has choreographed for many university and college dance groups, as well as Live Arts, Charlottesville's community theater. Edwin has recently opened his own dance studio in Charlottesville. He has been the featured dancer at every Cuban Spectacular since its inception.

Carolyn Moats, a North Carolina native, began training at the Louis Nunnery School of Classical Ballet at the age of 5. She attended the University of

North Carolina-Greensboro, studying various dance forms with a focus on contemporary styles. Based in Charlottesville, she has developed a passion for the art of partner dance and currently trains at The Dance Spot, under the direction of Edwin Roa, with his company, Zabor Dance Project.

The Guest Artists

Mark Lancaster Lusk became a member of the Penn State faculty in 1986. Prior to his appointment, he enjoyed a varied career with such diverse groups as the Woody Herman Thundering Herd, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Eastman Wind Ensemble, and the Chicago Contemporary Chamber Players. He continues to have an active playing career as a soloist, clinician, and freelance musician. As a member of the Woody Herman Alumni Band, he has performed throughout the United States and abroad, including featured performances at jazz festivals in China, England, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Scotland, and Sweden. The two most recent recordings of the Woody Herman Alumni Band are entitled the *60th Jubilee* and *Live in London* and are available on the New York Jam label.

Lusk has also performed on Broadway, including the recent production of *Little Women*. The original cast album is currently available from Ghostlight Records. His successful experience on Broadway has allowed him to play such memorable shows as *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. His performing and teaching have also taken him to South America. He has toured Chile as an artist/clinician, teaching and performing throughout the country, including a performance with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Concepción and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Chile. Lusk has also visited Argentina where he served as an artist/clinician and was the first trombone soloist in the history of the Teatro Colón.

In the summer months, Lusk is a member of the faculty at the Cleveland Trombone Seminar, the Interlochen Trombone and Tuba Institute, and the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp as a Valade Fellow instructor. Each year, Lusk tours as a soloist and with various groups that take him to numerous universities and schools of music across the United States. He has often performed at the New York Brass Conference, the Eastern Trombone Workshop, and the International Trombone Workshop, where he was invited to conduct the William Cramer Memorial Trombone Ensemble of College Professors. Mr. Lusk is a native of Brandenburg, Kentucky. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Eastman School of Music and a performance certificate from Northwestern University. Lusk is an artist/clinician for S. E. Shires Trombones, and has published *Trombonist's Guide to the Unaccompanied Cello Suites of J. S. Bach* (Lyceum Press).

Continued...

J.C. Kuhl, tenor saxophone, attended Towson University in Baltimore, where he studied jazz and commercial music under Stan Kenton, composer Hank Levy, and saxophonist Glen Cashman. He moved to Richmond in 1995, where he became a member of critically acclaimed groups Agents of Good Roots, Modern Groove Syndicate, and Devil's Workshop Big Band. He has served as a member of the Jazz faculty at VCU since 2005 and is also a member of the music faculty at Collegiate School. J.C. is a member of the Latin Jazz Messengers.

Latin percussionist **Santos Ramirez**, was born in Puerto Rico and relocated to Richmond in 1987. He has been the percussionist at West End Assembly of God since 1991. Retired from Hewlett-Packard in 2010, Santos dedicates his time to playing with the Latin Jazz Messengers and East of Hollywood and working with UR jazz students in the art of Latin percussion. In addition, Santos is involved with other Richmond area musical projects. His son, Santos J. Ramirez, is an '08 Spider.

Director, Producer, Conductor, and Performer

Distinguished trumpeter **Dr. Michael Davison** is a gifted performer, respected professor, published composer, and ethnomusicologist. He is in demand across the country as a classical and jazz performer and educator. As a performer, he has given jazz and classical recitals all over the United States, as well as in France, the Netherlands, Spain, South Africa, China, and Cuba. Davison has recorded four jazz CDs as both a leader and sideman. His classical CD, *Fenster*, received rave reviews from the *International Trumpet Guild Journal*. Widely considered an expert in Cuban music, he performs and teaches Cuban music at the University of Richmond and worldwide. As a jazz musician, Davison has performed with the late tenor saxophonist and eleven-time Grammy winner Michael Brecker, popular jazz trombonist Curtis Fuller, and legendary Latin jazz saxophonist and composer Justo Almario. He has also performed alongside some of Motown's most iconic singers and groups, including Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin, the Temptations, and The Four Tops. As a classical musician, Davison has performed with Rhythm and Brass, a group that plays everything from Bach to Pink Floyd. He has performed with the Wisconsin and Whitewater Brass Quintets, the Rochester Philharmonic, Wisconsin Symphony, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and the Richmond Symphony. Davison has performed for Pope John II and George Leonard Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury. He has published two transcription books on famed trumpeter Randy Brecker: *Randy Brecker: Artist Transcriptions/Trumpet* was published by Hal Leonard Publishing Company and *The Music of Randy Brecker: Solo Transcriptions and Performing Artist Master Class CD* was published by Warner Bros. Inc. In addition to transcribing, Davison has also published jazz and Afro-Cuban compositions with Walrus Music.

In 1986 Davison accepted a job as head of the jazz and trumpet programs at the University of Richmond. His influence as an educator goes beyond the University of Richmond's campus. Dr. Davison also serves as trumpet teacher and head of the brass area at the world-renowned Interlochen International Arts Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. Dr. Davison hosted the International Trumpet Guild Conference in 1999 and is an Edwards Instrument Performing Artist. Dr. Davison, along with producer Ed Tillett, completed *Cuba: Rhythm in Motion*, a documentary tracing the musical genealogy between Cuban rhythms and American jazz. The film premiered on the University of Richmond campus in 2007 and has been shown around the world, including Spain, Australia, and Mexico. In September 2016, Dr. Davison was the first American to perform at the Santiago de Cuba Jazz Festival.

Special Thanks ...

Modlin Center for the Arts staff: Deborah Sommers, executive director, and our "crew," Sean Farrell, Rob Richards, and Pat Kraehenbuehl

Jeff Riehl, Chair of the Music Department

To our incredible local musicians, J.C. Kuhl and Santos Ramirez: You all make us proud of Richmond!

To our trombone guru, Penn State Professor of Trombone, Mark Lusk: Thanks, meng!

Thanks to our guest dancers, Edwin Roa and Carolyn Moats: Couldn't do it without you!

To Myra Daleng: I am honored to teach the Salsa Meets Jazz students with her. She prepared the class for their dances. She's simply the best!

To all my UR jazz students and Salsa Meets Jazz dancers performing tonight: Great job, gang! Stay en clave!

To Joyce, my wife of 34 years: Thanks for helping me through the process one more time!

Now . . . get up and dance!

Mike Davison

THE 2016-2017 DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

FREE - No Ticket Required

Fall 2016

UR Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 | 7:30PM
Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music

43rd Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

Featuring UR Schola Cantorum and Women's Chorale
Sunday, December 4, 2016 | 5PM + 8PM
Cannon Memorial Chapel



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