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The Cuban Spectacular: "Pictures at a Cuban Exhibition II"

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Department of Music, University of Richmond, "The Cuban Spectacular: "Pictures at a Cuban Exhibition II"" (2019). *Music Department Concert Programs*. 952.

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University of Richmond Department of Music

FREE MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

2019-2020

The Cuban Spectacular: "Pictures at a Cuban Exhibition" P@ACE II

A Multi-Media Celebration

Featuring the University of Richmond Jazz Ensemble

Conducted by Dr. Mike Davison

with guest musicians and dancers

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Alice Jepson Theatre

7:30 p.m.

music.richmond.edu

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

While walking through a flea market in Havana, I was amazed by the quality and quantity of Cuban paintings for sale - a football field worth of art! Tonight's Cuban Spectacular is modeled after Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky's great work, 'Pictures at an Exhibition.' This idea sprung into the concept for this show: compose original Latin jazz compositions depicting great Cuban artwork. Pictures at a Cuban Exhibition!

In 1874 Modest Mussorgsky composed a multi-movement work for piano, depicting the paintings of Viktor Hartmann. Maurice Ravel brilliantly arranged the work and it is in the repertoire of every major professional orchestra. Tonight you will hear Pictures @ a Cuban Exhibition, Part II, with premieres of works by five composers - Daniel Guzmán Loyzaga, Marko Marcinko, Kelly Rossum, Nick Weiser, and myself - whose compositions were written to depict Cuban paintings. The University of Richmond Jazz Ensemble will be joined by many guest musicians and dancers.

Cuba is a study in irony - we don't trade with Cuba, but ride in American cars while we're there, and we speak different languages, but Cubans use words like "garage" and "sandwich" in their daily vernacular. Sound knows no barriers - you cannot put a fence around sound - so tonight we will once again mix Cuban rhythms with American music. It is not surprising that the acronym for this show is P@ACE, and resembles the word 'PEACE!' We are solving a rift with a riff. Enjoy the show!

Notes by Mike Davison

**Please silence all electronic devices before the performance begins.
Recording of any kind and photography are strictly prohibited.**

PROGRAM

The Return

Kelly Rossum
(b. 1970)

Painting: *Rebullones (Díptico)*

Artist: Adolfo Narciso Escalona Betancourt

Statement from the composer: *The AUGURIO, or omen, can be forecasted as either good or evil; the power of music will help each listener decide.*

Como Arrullo de Palmas

Daniel Guzmán Loyzaga
(b. 1942)

Painting: *Palmera*

Artist: Juan Jorge Knight Vera

Statement from the composer: *I have decided to arrange a famous composition by Cuban Ernesto Lecuona. In this composition, we have a little fun with the title of the painting: “Palmera” which means palm tree, and the title of the composition – “Como Arrullo de Palmas” – which means “like a lullaby of palms” – of your hand.*

El Rojo

Marko Marcinko
(b. 1969)

Painting: *Erik El Rojo*

Artist: Grettel Arrate Hechavarría

Statement from the composer: *“El Rojo” is red, it’s funky, it’s cool and it’s Cuban. The music reflects a groove and feeling that dances right out of this unique painting.*

Continued ...

Family

Rossum

Painting: *Rebullones (Díptico)*

Artist: Adolfo Narciso Escalona Betancourt

Statement from the composer: *The REBULLONES, or the birds of bad omens, can only be kept at bay by a global family; the music embraces both sides of this DÍPTICO.*

Hip Hop Cielo

Mike Davison

(b. 1957)

Painting: *Abstracción*

Artist: Jorge Luis Hernández Pouyú

Statement from the composer: *The painting reminds me of life: generating all levels of emotion and expression. When a baby is born in the US, Americans say that the baby is walking; Cubans say that he is dancing! Hopefully when the dance is done, Heaven (cielo) is waiting.*

Silencio

Nick Weiser

(b. 1986)

Painting: *Silencio*

Artist: Alejandro Lescay Hierrezuelo

Statement from the composer: *This evocative triptych of three figures with mouths erased creates a powerful image of Cubans without voice. The opening of this piece reflects their silence, and the interior intertwines them in musical discourse over a rarely heard clave in 7/4.*

MamBolero

Davison

Painting: *Memorias No. 1 (de la Serie Memorias)*

Artist: Pedro Manuel Vázquez de la Fe

Statement from the composer: *What starts slowly, becomes fast: the childlike lines give way to streaking light in the painting. “MamBolero” captures this in the beginning and end with its slow melody, while transforming the middle section into a fast-paced Cuban dance number.*

The Performers

UR Jazz Ensemble

Dr. Mike Davison, Conductor, Trumpet, Flugel Horn & Wind Synthesizer

Michael Wyatt	Alto Saxophone 1
Sean Bailis	Alto Saxophone 2
Matt Strange	Tenor Saxophone 1
Colin Sparkevicius	Tenor Saxophone 2
Dennon Hoernig	Baritone Saxophone
Eli Klein	Trumpet 1
Simon Curry	Trumpet 2
Josh Hafker	Trumpet 3
Adelaide Tracey	Trumpet 4
Sam Chiacchia	Trumpet 4
Timon Caletka	Trombone 2
Walker Campbell	Trombone 3
Franklin Borre	Bass Trombone
Reuben Davis	Piano
Justin Butler	Bass
Chris Cassella	Drums

Continued ...

Guest Musicians

J.C. Kuhl	Tenor Saxophone
Kelly Rossum	Trumpet
Toby Whitaker	Trombone
Santos Ramirez	Percussion
Hector “Coco” Barez	Percussion
Alfredo Santiago	Flute and Percussion

Dancers

Angel A. Rodriguez Serrano, the “Salsa Guy,” is from Puerto Rico. He is a freelancer who has been dancing and teaching since the age of 14. He specializes in Latin and ballroom dances. Angel manages three dance groups and three dancers in the Richmond area. He currently teaches *salsa*, *bachata*, *cha-cha*, *Salsa Casino Rueda*, and basic ballroom dances throughout Richmond. The Salsa Guy trains new dancers and community volunteers to compete in local charity events like Dancing with the Richmond Stars and the Pink Tie Gala. Tonight, Angel will be dancing with **Edna Mayen**. Originally from Guatemala, for the last ten years Ms. Mayen has been Angel’s partner, specializing in Puerto Rican folk dances.

Narrator

Ted Peebles is a graduate of the University of Virginia, where he began his Spanish teaching career in 1989. Since 1999, he is Director of the Intensive Spanish Language Program at the University of Richmond.

Guest Musicians

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.

Kelly Rossum is an international trumpet artist, improviser, and composer. He has performed everything from lead trumpet at New York's famed Birdland jazz club to baroque trumpet in Bad Säckingen, Germany; from soprano cornet with the North Carolina Brass Band to improvised free jazz in Bangkok, Thailand; and from playing traditional *Son* in Santiago de Cuba to Sousa marches in the Fourth of July parade in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. As a 21st-century musician with no stylistic boundaries, he has played at the Vision Festival; SXSW; New York Electro Acoustic Music Festival; Spark Festival of Electronics and Musical Art; 10,000 Lakes Music Festival; Minnesota Sur Seine; numerous other blues, jazz, classical and Latin music festivals; plus multiple International Trumpet Guild Conferences, including as a featured soloist in Sydney, Australia; as well as repeat appearances at the New York Festival of New Trumpet Music and the Atlanta Trumpet Festival. Kelly Rossum has released five highly acclaimed albums as a leader and has appeared on over 40 recordings as an ensemble musician. He recorded with, and was a founding member of, both the improvised rock group Electropolis and the Eric Dolphy repertory ensemble Out To Lunch. He is also a founding member of the new electro-acoustic trumpet ensemble, Fifth Bridge. Dr. Rossum is currently Associate Professor of Trumpet and Jazz Studies at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. Previous to this appointment, he taught at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama, and at MacPhail Center for Music in

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Minneapolis, Minnesota, one of the nation's largest community music schools.

Toby Whitaker is a trombonist, composer, and educator. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University and his Master of Music in Jazz Performance from Rutgers University, where he had the privilege of studying trombone with virtuoso Conrad Herwig. He is presently directing Jazz Orchestra II at VCU, and teaching Jazz Trombone, Digital Creativity in Music Technology, Aural Skills, and Jazz Ensemble Techniques at Christopher Newport University. Mr. Whitaker has toured the United States with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and many parts of Mexico, Europe, and Russia with the Indie rock group Bon Iver. As a composer, he has written for and led his own group and Richmond's premiere Latin ensemble, Bio Ritmo. His arrangements have been featured on NPR's *Tiny Desk Concert*, the 2014 Mingus Awareness Project, on WBGO Jazz Public Radio in Newark, New Jersey, and at New York City's Blue Note club.

Saxophonist and flautist **Alfredo L. Santiago** is a native of New York but developed his musical talent in the island of Puerto Rico. He's performed in the acclaimed Viña del Mar International Song Festival, the oldest and largest music festival in Latin America, where he accompanied singer/actor Jose Luis "El Puma." He's also played with famous Cuban singer La Lupe. Before joining the U.S. Army Band program in 1982 he was pursuing a flute major at the Pablo Casals Conservatory of Music in Puerto Rico. He was a member of the salsa band of the top Puerto Rican trumpeter, Elias Lopes. He's performed alongside the famous saxophonist Justo Almarino and trumpeter extraordinaire Mike Davison at the University of Richmond Cuban Spectacular. Alfredo has a Bachelor of Music, jazz studies, from Virginia Commonwealth University. He currently serves as the Orchestra Director for The Heights Baptist Church as well as music director/arranger for Orquesta Kadencia, a 13-piece Puertorican Afro Caribbean ensemble.

Santos Ramirez, born in Puerto Rico, relocated to Richmond in

1987. He has been the percussionist at West End Assembly of God since 1991. Retired from Hewlett Packard in 2010, Mr. Ramirez is a founding member of the Latin Jazz Messengers, percussionist in the southern rock band East of Hollywood, and a founding member of the Puerto Rican Bomba/Plena & Salsa band, Kadencia. He also spends time teaching Latin percussion to UR jazz students. His son, Santos J. Ramirez, is an '08 Spider.

Born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, **Héctor “Coco” Barez** is one of the most active Puerto Rican percussionists of his generation. During his extensive career, he has had the opportunity to represent the Island in both folkloric and popular music stages. Coco received a BA in Physical Education from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) in Río Piedras. He studied percussion at the UPR, the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, the Music Conservatory of Puerto Rico, and the Los Angeles College of Music (LACM) in Pasadena, California. Nevertheless, Coco attributes his highest level of learning to the streets of Puerto Rico and its *bomba* and *rumba* percussionists such as La Familia Cepeda, Los Hermanos Ayala, Los Pleneros de la 23, Alfredo Rodríguez, Nicolás Lebrón, Paoli Mejías, Héctor Calderón, Víctor Emmanuelli, Samuel Gascot, and Raúl Rodríguez, among others. He was a member of the Ballet Folclórico Nacional de Puerto Rico “Areyto,” Pleni-bom, Los Pleneros de la 23 Abajo, Son del Batey, El Bombazo de Puerto Rico de los Hermanos Emmanuelli, Taller Tamboricua, and Bataklán. Coco worked for eight years with the band Los de Atrás Vienen Conmigo, which accompanied the Puerto Rican rap duo Calle 13 for ten years. He recorded in four of the five Grammy-award winning productions of Calle 13. He has also had the opportunity to perform and record with artists such as Shakira, Alejandro Sanz, Maná, Don Omar, Bacilos, Bayanga, William Cepeda, Cultura Profética, Tamela Hedstrom, Diana Fuentes, Jerry Medina, Mikrowaves, Mekong Express, and Calma Carmona, among others. He is currently a member of the salsa band Bio Ritmo and Miramar (Boleros), which recently dedicated its debut album to the great Puerto Rican composer and songwriter Sylvia Rexach. Coco keeps a busy schedule touring with Miami-based band Bacilos

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and constructing what is going to be the Laberinto del Coco Tour, expected to start sometime around summer or fall 2019, while teaching workshops and giving lectures on Puerto Rican percussion around the world.

Composers

Daniel Guzmán Loyzaga is a Cuban violinist, saxophonist, arranger, orchestrator, conductor, and teacher. Maestro Guzmán founded a number of music groups and organizations, including the Orquesta Los Taínos in Santiago de Cuba (1955–1978); was violinist with the “Orquesta Sinfónica de Oriente” in Santiago de Cuba (1962); conductor of the Marching Band, Choir and Popular Music Ensemble of Instituto de Santiago de Cuba (1960); the Chamber Orchestra at the Conservatorio Provincial de Música “Esteban Salas” (1961); TV programs and orchestra conductor for Cubavision and TeleRebelde (1969-1978); musical director of recording studios “Siboney-EGREM” in Santiago de Cuba (1978-1985); honorary guest conductor of “Danzonera Sierra Madre,” México (2009-); honorary conductor of Orquesta Popular de la Universidad de Nuevo León, México (2012-) and permanent honorary guest professor at Rotterdam Superior Conservatory (1993-), Rotterdam, The Netherlands (1994-). Maestro Guzmán was also the founding director of the Provincial Center of Music “Miguel Matamoros” in Santiago de Cuba, an institution where he chairs the Technical-Artistic Council. He is currently president of “Concierto Santiago” UNEAC (National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba) and hosts and conducts a festival each year in May. Maestro Guzmán has worked with Dr. Mike Davison of the University of Richmond performing in both classical and Cuban folk music styles. Dr. Davison performed two concerti with the “Orquesta Sinfónica de Oriente” and Guzmán and Davison worked together to present a big band concert for the festival Concierto Santiago 2014. Students from the Universities of Richmond and Penn State rehearsed with the students from Conservatorio Provincial de Música “Esteban Salas” to perform a big band concert. Guzman has composed a concerto for trumpet and trombone for Davison and Mark Lusk, trombone teacher at

Penn State University. “Caribbean Suite” was premiered in Cuba, with orchestra, in 2015. Guzmán has been on the jury of many national and international events such as festivals Benny Moré in Memoriam, Sindo Garay, the Creator Musical, Boleros de Oro, CUBADISCO, Lira Bratislava (Slovakia), Orfeo de Oro (Bulgaria), Sopot (Poland), and the Adolfo Guzman contest of Santiaguero Carnival music. He was also invited to the White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since 1986, Mr. Guzmán has been on the faculty at the Conservatorio Provincial de Música “Esteban Salas” in the areas of performance and orchestration, and is director of the Youth Orchestra. As a director and music producer, he has produced more than forty recording projects in various media (LD, cassette, CD, and DVD) for Cuba, England, The Netherlands, and Japan, and has worked in Germany, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Colombia, Spain, the USA, Finland, France, Hungary, The Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Sweden, the USSR and Venezuela. Mr. Guzmán won the Grand Prize for Orchestration at the National Festival of Music Creator in 1971 and has received numerous awards and honors for his musical works, including the Order of Cuban Culture, Order Raul Gómez García, and Plate José María Heredia.

Marko Marcinko is a graduate of The University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, where he studied classical and ethnic percussion, drum set, and piano, as well as arranging and composing. Marko has performed and/or recorded with some of the greatest names in jazz, such as Joe Henderson, Red Rodney, Phil Woods, Michael Brecker, Randy Brecker, Bob Dorough, Tierney Sutton, Paquito D’Rivera, and more. He also has toured extensively and recorded with trumpet legend Maynard Ferguson and the Big Bop Nouveau. For the past fifteen years, Marko has been touring and recording with NEA jazz master Dave Liebman and The Dave Liebman Group, as well as The Dave Liebman Big Band, and is featured on numerous Grammy-nominated recordings. More recently, Marko has been touring and recording with The Organik Vibe Trio, featuring mallet master Dave Samuels and saxophonist Joel Frahm. As an educator and clinician, Marko serves as head of jazz studies

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at Penn State University and Marywood University. He endorses Zildjian Cymbals, Yamaha Drums, Vic Firth Sticks and Aquarian Heads. Marko also serves as artistic director for the Scranton Jazz Festival and The Keystone College Jazz Institute and leads the PA Jazz Alliance, which promotes jazz in North Eastern Pennsylvania and throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Nick Weiser is that most rare combination: a musician's musician, and a musical ambassador to the masses. A communicative artist skilled not only as a pianist, conductor, and bandleader, but as a composer, arranger, educator, and scholar, Weiser has performed to acclaim as a soloist and collaborator in numerous idioms. Diligence, curiosity, and love of music led him from his tiny hometown of Dighton, Kansas, first to the University of Kansas, and then on to the Eastman School of Music, where he earned his M.M. and D.M.A. in the Department of Jazz Studies & Contemporary Media under the tutelage and mentorship of Harold Danko and Bill Dobbins, among others. Weiser has dazzled audiences around the United States and in Europe with performances at the Santiago de Cuba International Jazz Festival, the Montreux Jazz Festival, the Umbria Jazz Festival, the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival, New York City's "Prez Fest," and Carnegie Hall. He has enjoyed performance engagements with musicians including Dick Oatts, Byron Stripling, Bob Brookmeyer, Christian McBride, Peter Erskine, and the New York Voices. Highly regarded as a collaborative pianist, Weiser appears on recent CD releases by tubist Justin Benevidez of Florida State University, longtime Ithaca College trumpet professor Frank Gabriel Campos, and Weiser's own jazz trio, i3°, featuring bassist Nicholas Walker and drummer Greg Evans. He is in the process of recording his own solo piano album, to be released in 2020. A passionate and dedicated educator, Weiser has been the architect and director of the Jazz Studies curriculum at the State University of New York at Fredonia since the program began in 2017. Among his duties at SUNY Fredonia, Weiser is proud to conduct two stellar big bands,

the Fredonia Jazz Orchestra and the *Down Beat* award-winning New Jazz Ensemble. In the greater Fredonia community, Weiser serves as artistic director of the Fredonia Jazz Society, which he co-founded, performing regularly and facilitating concerts sponsored by the organization. Prior to coming to Fredonia, Weiser taught at Ithaca College from 2011 to 2017 and at Cornell University from 2013 to 2017, and has maintained a private teaching studio for many years.

Director and Producer

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. Dr. 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, Dr. 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, Dr. 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. Dr. Davison has performed for Pope John II and George Leonard Carey,

Continued ...

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, Dr. Davison has also published jazz and Afro-Cuban compositions with Walrus Music. In 1986 Dr. 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. He 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 Cuba, Spain, Australia, and Mexico. In September 2016 Dr. Davison was the first American to perform at the Santiago de Cuba Jazz Festival.

Show Credits

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

Special Thanks ...

Modlin Center staff: Deborah Sommers, director, and our “crew” – Boss, Sean Farrell; sound engineer, John Angelo; and lighting specialist, Pat Kraehenbuehl!

Dr. Jeffrey Riehl, Chair of the Music Department

Many thanks to UR bass instructor Randall Pharr and drum set instructor Brian Jones for preparing the student performers for the show.

Dr. Patrice Rankine, Dean of Arts and Sciences

To our guest artists, dancers and narrator – wow ... THANK YOU!

To all my UR jazz students - Great job, gang! Stay en clave!

To Joyce, my wife of 37 years ... thanks for helping me through the process one more time!

Now ... get up and dance!

-- Mike Davison

