



ABOUT US

Habana Safari is an authentic Cuban music project. Founded in 2007 by MultiJuno Award Winner Cuban Master percussionist Joaquin Nunez and formed by some of the greatest Cuban musicians in the City of Toronto, the Project has earned a reputation (place) in the Canadian Music scene as one of the most unique Cuban music acts. The concept and repertory of the band is a retrospective of Cuban music since its beginning in the eighteen hundred with the Danza, Contradanza and Danzon, genres that merge certain elements of European classic music and African Rhythms, giving way to what the World knows today as Cuban music. Based on this concept, Habana Safari has developed a contemporary, fresh and unique sound of melodies and songs representative of Afro-Cuban jazz yet rooted in the authenticity and beauty of traditional Cuban music. The band's format includes traditional Cuban and Afro-Cuban instruments such as bata drums, as well as characteristic instruments of Latin music: trumpet, piano, acoustic bass and violin. Beyond the instrumentation, the beautiful voice of the lead singer and the wealth of percussion moments throughout the show, are the elements that make the sound of the band genuine. It should be said that the Habana Safari Show is electrifying, connecting with all kinds of audiences in any setting, actively engaging them at various times of the Show, making the Habana Safari Show an unforgettable experience.

SOCIAL LINKS

[EPK VIDEO](#)

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For Booking Information please contact:

Olga Zayas | jddrums13@gmail.com | 416-274-7567 | 416-879-3123



Dánae Olano

(Piano)

Toronto based pianist, composer and arranger Danae Olano is originally from Cuba. Her career began to blossom while studying at the University of Arts in Havana. Her music is influenced by the Afro-Cuban music tradition, Classical music, Jazz, Brazilian rhythms, and more. She focuses on the legacy of the great Cuban pianists as well as the Masters of Jazz. Winner of two Juno Awards and Grammy Nominated, Miss Olano holds multiple classical piano awards such as Musicalia and UNEAC. She is a versatile pianist, founding member of the all-female band “Jane Bunnett and Maqueque” she also collaborates with other musicians in the city having the opportunity to learn new styles of music and enrich her own. She has performed in some of the world’s most prestigious jazz clubs, including Birdland, Blue Note and Bimhuis as well as in leading festivals such as the Monterrey, Newport and Saratoga Jazz Festivals in addition to Jazz al Parque in Bogota. Olano not only writes music for her band, she also collaborates with visual artists and has recently been awarded Best Original Soundtrack by the Capital Film Festival in Madrid for her collaboration on the experimental short-film “Sunlight Around the Corner: The Golden Sparrow”. She has been part of many recordings including Juno Award Winners “ Jane Bunnett and Maqueque” (2014) and “Espiral” by Okan (2020).

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Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo

(Drums & Percussion)

Multi Juno Award winner Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo is a professional artist who has a successful music career in Cuba. Performing in numerous music events and festivals, he shared the stage with some of Cuba's most elite musicians like *Emiliano Salvador*, *Juan Pablo Torres* and *Chucho Valdes*. Eventually settling in Toronto in 1999, Hidalgo quickly became immersed in the local music scene performing as a drummer and percussionist with top Canadian- based artists across the country as well as internationally. He is also the co-leader and musical director of the Afro-Cuban Jazz Project ensemble "Caribbean Jazz Collective" and the traditional Cuban music group "Cubanos". Joaquin has a parallel and very active career as teacher and educator. He is a member of the Special Community Music Program at Toronto District School Board, founder of After School International Program Sistema Toronto and he has been Faculty Professor for Private Drum & Percussion Program at Humber College in Toronto since 2020; to mention some. As a producer he has been involved in many musical projects, one of the most important being the 2011 CD with Italian super star singer *Zucchero* and *La Sesión Cubana*. Touring and performing all around the world performing at some of the most re-known stages like The Royal Albert Hall in London and Madison Square Gardens, New York. Joaquin has been nominated for multiple Grammy Awards (USA) and Juno Awards in Canada, holding a Juno Award nomination as the producer for the CD "Companiche" in 2021. This multifaceted career makes Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo, an artist and ambassador of hope through the power of music.

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Marta Elena

(Singer)

Marta Elena, Excellence Award winner for her outstanding performance at the 5th Annual Vaughan Latin Festival (celebration of Latin culture and community), was born into a musical family in Havana, Cuba. Singer and Composer, Marta Elena belongs to a younger generation of Cuban musicians who honour the island nation's Afro-Latin musical roots while looking for new ways to express the music. Her professional career starts at the age of 18, singing as part of the chorus of the Company of Zarzuelas and Operettas of the Teatro Lirico Nacional, one of the most famous theatres in Havana and touring with famous Cuban female band Anacaona. Since her move to Toronto in 2011, Marta Elena's high light performances include her Koerner Hall appearance as Guest of Hilario Duran and his Latin Jazz Big Band with Horacio El Negro Hernandez and Sarita Leyva's Rumberos; also, her performance at the Yardbird Suite – Edmonton – in a quintet formation with Hilario Duran (Noche Cubana). "Marta Elena's personality, powerful voice, and stage presence make her the total package of entertainer, composer and gifted artist".

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Dyalis Machado

(Percussion & Vocal)

An exceptional Cuban female percussionist, Dyalis Machado Migueles has a Bachelor Degree in Classic and Latin Percussion. She has a very successful music career, both in Cuba and abroad, at an international level. Her curriculum includes: 2008-2010 Tour to Japan with “Son de Cuba,” where she had the opportunity of sharing the stage with some renowned performers such as: Sheila E, Ken Morimura and Orquesta de La Luz. Dyalis has also toured all around Europe as a member of La “Sesión Cubana,” an All Stars Cuban band which backs up the famous Italian singer Zucchero and was a member of the globally known “Tropicana Cuban Show.” As a clinician, she has taught at a Tokyo Music College in Japan, the Conservatory Amadeo Roldán and other schools in Cuba. She has been part of many International Exchange Cultural Programs & featuring workshops, master class with prestigious percussionists such as Joaquín Núñez Hidalgo, Horacio “El Negro” Hernández and José Luis Quintana “Changuito.” Dyalis participated as percussionist on the recording of the PBS-DVD “Under the Sky” with the Canadian Tenors at the Caesar Palace, in Windsor, and concert at the Rose Theater in Brampton. Dyalis was part of the teaching staff of the “Sistema on the School Program” as well as on the “SMCS Rumba Squad Program.”

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Esteban Vargas

(Violin)

Born and raised in Holguin, Cuba, Esteban is a knowledgeable, creative and resourceful musician with over 20 years experience in music as violin player and educator. His works move between classic and traditional Cuban music. Since his move to Canada, he has worked and worked with projects such as: Cafe Cubano, Enae Rose & the Black Rose Orchestra, Havana Toronto Safari to mention some and he is the First Violin of Strafford Symphony Orchestra, Benton Street Christmas Concert, Waterloo Chambers Players.



Alexander Brown

(Trumpet)

A native of Cuba, Alexander Brown is a hard-bop, post-bop and Latin oriented musician. He became one of Cuba's prominent trumpet players in the late 90s, where he graduated from the Institute Superior of Art in 1997 and taught there until 2005. He is now one of the most vital and deft trumpeters and composers in Toronto's dynamic musical scene. Various awards include winner of the Cuba Disco International music 2006, nominee to the rising stars award for the best new musical composition at the Montreal Jazz fest 2014, and winner of the TD Discovery Series Special Projects 2015. His most recent album, "The Warrior" (2021) has received much acclaim and features his sextet playing his original compositions. Brown has toured extensively throughout Europe and the United States. Aside from leading his sextet, Alexander is a highly sought-after sideman and has collaborated with many of the most celebrated musicians in Canada including such luminaries as Nikki Yanofsky, Archie Alleyne, Norm Marshall Villeneuve, Hilario Duran, Luis Mario Ochoa, Bernie Senensky, Dave Young, Amanda Martinez, Bill King, Terry Clark, Don Thompson, Jackie Richardson, Laila Biali and Andrew

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Craig.

Roberto Riveron

(Bass)

The style that defines Roberto Riverón comes from the experience of the Cuban music he has been taking since he was a child. Having established himself as a bassist, Riverón appeared with some of the finest artists of the 1990s in the island of Cuba. He is graduated as a guitar and bass player from the National School of Arts (ENA) in Havana; Roberto Riverón contributed to the recording of the Latin Grammy winner album “La Rumba Soy Yo” (Haila Mompie) and the Grammy nominated “La Formula” (Isaac Delgado). Following a successful career in his native country as a leading studio and bassist, Roberto decided to move to Canada to continue his endeavour as a musician working and collaborating with as many musical projects as possible in the city to share his vast experience with Canadian musicians.



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