### Missing: About the band as a whole.

### BAND MEMBERS

**Rodrigo Chavez – Artistic Director/ Percussion**

Rodrigo Chávez, Chilean born musician, has specialized in classical Guitar and Afro-Latin percussion for more than fifteen years. He studied Sociology and French at York University and has traveled extensible throughout Peru, Venezuela and Cuba studying traditional rhythms and musical styles of those countries.

He has performed in Chile, Argentina, USA, Canada and Korea. In Canada he has performed at The Banff Centre for the Arts, Ottawa’s Museum of Civilization, Roy Thompson Hall and for the National Ballet of Canada. He has participated in numerous recordings projects including CBC documentaries, Peter Smith “Caliente & Cool” Jazz CD, Kiran Ahlluwalia Indo-Pakistani contemporary music, Prologue to the Performing Arts CD, Jim Parker’s Children Production “On my street” and Flamenco Spanish recordings. “Mi Camino”, one of his compositions, was played in TV series “Nikita”. Same song is played for the Ontario Arts Council new educational DVD for “Artists in Education”.

In 1997 he became the Artistic Director of “CASSAVA Latin Rhythms”, his own project. With this band, he takes a new musical approach to a fusion of Afro-Latin rhythms with Jazz and popular music from Latin America. His focus is primarily on Salsa, Cumbia, Lando and Afro-Cuban rhythms. He has performed in most international festivals of Canada, Chicago in USA and South Korea. CASSAVA plays in special events as well as in the educational area, schools and universities of Ontario.

Cassava’s first CD entitled “Latin Rhythms” was produced in year 2000 and distributed through Canada and USA featuring Venezuelan singer Eliana Cuevas. Cassava has produced a second CD entitled “Encuentros” (Encounters), released on April 2004. CASSAVA’s latest CD is entitled “Color de Rumba” (Color of Rumba) released on summer of 2008.

He has been leading workshops for OISE (Ontario Institute of Studies in Education), COLLAGE, 19th National Conference on Carl Orff, Toronto 2006, he lead workshops for the OABEC Conference (Ontario Association of Business Education and Coordinators), Niagara Falls 2007, most recently he led workshops for the EDGO Conference (Educators for Gifted Children of Ontario) in Toronto, November 2007, yearly a teacher’s workshop organized by Worlds of Music, OISE in June 2008, for the undergraduate program at York University, UNICEF CANADA 2010 and Microsoft Corporation in 2011.

Rodrigo Chavez is currently touring Ontario and Quebec provinces conducting workshops on Afro-Latin rhythms for middle and high schools with the support of Ontario Arts Council and the different Boards of Education. The program is affordable and it is offered in both, English and French languages.

“My teaching philosophy is grounded in giving students tools for their own creation. These tools open a window to an entirely new world of expression, a world that is both magical and connected to their own reality. They can then explore in the context of their daily life, and create new forms of expression.”

###### ADIS RODRIGUEZ

Adis Rodriguez was born in Cuba on Oct 25/1983. Coming from a very musical family, she was introduced to this form of art at a very young age. At the age of seven she began her music studies at the "Academy of music Benny More" in Cienfuegos, Cuba. After graduating she then continued her studies in the "Adult School of Music" where she graduated in the year 2000. Adis has perform with and for a number of personalities of her country, since the age of 9 she was the lead vocalist of the children's orchestra " Ismaelillo", also had the privilege to be part of the Chorus "Cascabel" as a pianist and lead soprano. Adis now lives in Toronto where she continues to perform as a lead vocalist of "Cassava Latin Rhythms" and "Ache Woman power” bands. She has performed as a vocalist in many International shows, festivals and concerts in Canada and abroad.

**AMHED MITCHEL**

Amhed Mitchel was born in Cardenas, Cuba on Sept-6/1978, inspired by his father, a great drummer player himself, started his musical studies in the Conservatory of Music of Matanzas, after graduating he moved to Havana and attended the "National School of Art", in the mid 90s returned to Matanzas and started his professional training in Varadero, having the opportunity to work with great musicians. Mitchel also spent some years in Havana, performing and recording with many of the top Bands of Cuba, he now lives in Toronto, Canada where he continues his passion for music.

# JUAN PABLO DOMINGUEZ

Juan Pablo Dominguez Chavez, was born in Villa Clara, Cuba. In 1991 he graduated from Classical Guitar, at the Vocational School of Arts "Olga Alonso," one of Cuba's most prestigious Arts Institutions. Since the beginning of his career, he traveled throughout Cuba and the rest of the world, teaching Guitar and Bass workshops. Juan Pablo had the opportunity to make his music known around his native country, working together and sharing stage with many great artists from Cuba. In 1999, he joined the Havana Ensemble group, directed by saxophonist Cesar Lopez, a project coming out of the prestigious band ‘Irakere’. While in Havana Ensemble, got the chance to tour around Argentina, Brazil, Switzerland, South Africa, Japan, Canada, Venezuela, France, Mexico among others. During these tours Juan Pablo shared stage in various occasions with well known musicians such as, Compay Segundo, Ray Charles, David Sambord, Chucho Valdes, Ed Motta, Marcus Miller, Eddy Parlmieri, Hilario Duran, Maracas, Herbie Hancock, Dave Holland, Wayne Shorter, Toto group And many others. Besides working with Havana Ensemble, he was also part of Pasaje Abierto and Elmer Ferrer Band. Juan Pablo is also a composer, producer and arranger, whose credits appear on different albums, such as:

"Zero", Diego Gutierrez (Unicorn, 2006), "My Generation", Tesis de Menta, (Egrem, 2006), "Dudas", by Rochy (Bis Music, 2005, "Andante" (2006 Best Latin Jazz CD)

"Metropolis" (2003 Opera Prima Prize),

Juan Pablo also participated in the recording of the first DVD recorded in Cuba: “Jazz Cuba Today” (2006 Best DVD Jazz Achievement). In the present, he resides in Toronto, Canada, where he continues to work as a performer/producer/composer.

# Orlando CARDOSO -Piano

At the age of 11 he studied the saxophone at Escuela Provincial de Arte (Arts School of Matanzas Province) in Matanzas, Cuba. Later on, he studied Classical music at the Escuala Nacional de Arte –ENA (National Arts School of Cuba) where he begins studying the Oboe. He had started teaching music at an early age while performing with Classical and traditional orchestras of Cuba such as the Symphony of Matanzas, Yaguarimu, Quimica Perfecta, Pacason, Angel Bonne and Rojitas y su Grupo.

The experience acquired with these bands allowed him to study in depth a large variety of Cuban rhythms and styles, traveling to other countries and empowering his teaching techniques with a bigger musical vision. He has dedicated all these years to the study of piano, developing a higher professional career that got him awards and recognition in Cuba. He has then, participated in both, Classical and popular concerts.

Now in Toronto, Orlando Cardoso has participated in numerous recording projects as composer, arranger as well as performer. He has also played with most bands and artistic projects of high caliber, such as Hilario Duran jazz band, Amanda Mrtinez, Luis Mario Ochoa, Cimarron, Puente Brothers, Son Ache, Cassava Latin Rhythms and many others. He is responsible for all musical arrangements of CASSAVA’s CD “Encuentros” and “Color de Rumba”, released in 2008.

# Alexander Brown -Trumpet

Alexander Brown Cabrera was born in Camaguey, Cuba to a family of world reknowned musicians. His relatives include the legendary shekere player Don Pancho Terry.

He attended the Instituto Superior de Artes de Cuba (University of Arts), Cuba’s most prestigious institution of its kind. Since his arrival on the vibrant Havana music scene, he became one of the city’s most sought after musicians. In 1997, he was asked to join Otra Vision, the band of the influential flutist, composer and arranger Orlando Maraca Valle. With this group, Brown toured extensively throughout Europe and the United States and virtually performed at every major jazz festival. In 1997, Brown joined another group of great importance in the history of Cuban music: Havana Ensemble. Lead by saxmen and former Irakere bandmember Cesar Lopez, Havana Ensemble was part of a group of Cuban bands that changed the sound of Cuban music once again in the late 90’s. With this band he also had the chance to tour worlwide and was part of a project created to pay homage to one of Cuba’s most well known sons, the late great conguero Chano Pozo.

In 2001, Brown started to appear as a special guest with Cuban Jazz pianist Ernan Lopez Nussa. This gave him the opportunity to play with the likes of Changuito Quintana and Tata Guines, both legendary percussionists that have developed the sound of Cuban music for half a century. With this group Brown continued to perform at jazz festivals outside and in Cuba. In 2002 Alexander is invited to play on saxophonist Dave Murray’s c.d “Now is Another Time”, which has gathered great reviews and once again exposed Cuban artists to audiences across the globe. Besides being a very active presence in the Havana jazz scene in the last few years, Brown was also very busy as a studio musician, recording for the likes of Havana Ensemble, David Murray (he recorded on another Murray album entitled “David Murray and The Gwo-ka-Masters” to great critical acclaim), Manuel Ceruto, Orlando Maraca Valle, etc. Leading his own quartet he came to Canada in 2005 and performed at Otawa's Jazz festival, latter he decides to settle down in Toronto where he continues to compose and perform with many of Toronto’s finest musicians, like Hilario Duran, Luis Mario Ochoa, Archie Ali, Amanda Martinez and many others.

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Alexander Brown now resides in Toronto where he teaches trumpet at Huron Heights Secondary School. He continues composing and performing with many of Toronto’s finest musicians and bands such as Hilario Duran, Amanda Martinez, Luis Mario Ochoa’s Cimarron, CASSAVA and many others.

###### REINIER TORRES –Trumpet

Accomplished trumpet player, originally from Camagüey, Cuba. He has studied with most prestigious trumpet masters of “Escuela Vocacional de Arte”. In Cuba, Reinier has performed with most important bands of Camagüey such as Banda Jiron, Achere, Tiempos Nuevos, Salsometro, Salsa Brava and many more. He has played for renowned Cuban national festivals “Cantandole Al Sol” and for the ceremony of Mambize Rebellion of national relevance.

He has performed in most prestigious resorts and hotels of Varadero such as “Sol y Mar” and “Hotel Internacional”. He has toured internationally with orchestra “Valentin y Los del Caribe”, performing in 20 cities of Canada with this band. Some of the concerts included Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Regina, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and the Maritimes.

In Toronto, he has performed with most Latin and Jazz bands of high caliber, taking part in the international concert of Andy Montanez. He also took part in several recording projects, playing in the CD of “Valentin y Los del Caribe”, Café Cubano, Luisito Obregoso’s Salsa Urbana, Clave King and CASSAVA Latin band.

Born in Cienfuegos, Cuba. He developed his first studies in the Music School of Cienfuegos City. He has participated in numerous events and festivals in Cuba. He officially became a professional musician in 1979, after that he continued playing and studying many styles of Cuban and International music. In Canada, Fredy has performed in most prestigious Theatres of Maritimes such as Capitol in Moncton and Imperial in Nova Scotia, Massy Hall and Roy Thompson Hall of Toronto. He has participated in the recording of several projects: Clave y Congo, Sol de Los Andes, Lady Son, Pablito Terry’s Ensemble, Cassava Latin Rhythms and many more. He experiments with the guitar as a composer’s favorite instrument acquiring more than 300 songs in his own style. “I am a Bass Player and composer; I work with different bands of all sorts. Everywhere I go I look for that human and musical element inside all of us, people call me CUBANEANDO”.

# CHENDY LEON –Percussion

Rosendo Leon (Chendy), studied in Juan Pablo Duarte Music Conservatory, a branch of the renown ISA, Cuba (Instituto Superior de Arte). He has specialized in Contemporary and traditional Latin American percussion mastering Timbales, Bongos, Congas and the drum-set. He has performed in his native Cuba with important bands such as Rojitas y Su Grupo, Melao Son, Yagruma and directed Metropolis, his own band. In Toronto, he has participated in numerous recording projects an performed with major Latin Jazz and orchestras and Salsa bands such as Cruzao, Jane Bunett, Havana Express, Quimica Perfecta, Jessy Cook and Cassava Latin Rhythms.

# Dailyn Martinez -Dancer

Dailyn Martinez was born in Havana, Cuba. She has been dancing since a very young age. At the age of nine she had already performed on prestigious stages for the Cuban government in Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Pinar Del Rio and others. She started her training at Casa de Cultura Dance and Music School. When she reached the age of twelve she successfully auditioned for Juan Pablo Duarte, the Provincial School of Art in Havana. She has then trained for three years of technique for higher performance level.

Between 1996 and 2000 she completed her education at The National Academy of Dance specializing in modern dance, contemporary jazz and other forms of traditional Cuban dances. In the years to follow Dailyn taught and performed widely at the National Cuban Arena.

Presently in Toronto, she dances for the Ire Omo Afro-Cuban Dance Company and teaches in groups and privately. She is also teaching Cuban Styles for the Mambo Dream Team School of Dance. With this last company she has participated in four Salsa Congresses, performing and touring throughout Berlin, Toronto, Warsaw and Acapulco, Mexico, for the most prestigious Salsa events in the world.

**Rafael Steyners -Dancer**

Rafael Steyners was born in Guantanamo City, Cuba. At the age of 5 was selected to join an academy to study ballet and contemporary dance techniques. At the age of 12 he attended to his first professional school of dance where Rafael studied modern & contemporary dance (including ballet and Cuban dances) for 3 years.

After a demanding audition he was accepted at one of the most prestigious schools of arts in the country: The National School of Scenic Arts, in Havana. There, he specialized in all traditional Latin dances such as Salsa, Merengue, Cha-Cha-Cha, Mambo, Conga and Afro-Cuban dances. He also has learned international dance forms such as Jazz, Rock, Tango, Flamenco, Samba and many others.

While studying at the National School of Ballet he was deeply interested in other art programs offered at the school, so he took lessons on singing, acting and guitar. He discovered not only having a passion for dancing but also for singing. By the age of 15 he has performed in several dance videos, dance commercials, soap operas, shows for national audience and special performances for Cuban events. He was also performing with some of the highest dance companies of Cuba.

After graduating and getting his certificate with honours, he then went to work at the very well known club “Tropicana de Cuba” in Veradero. Then moved on to be a dancer at “El Senador Hotel” in Cayo Coco, Cuba. At both, the Tropicana and El Senador not only he did performed as a dancer but he was also a singer.

In Toronto, he taught at one of the well-known dance studios, Arthur Murray. He also teaches “Cuban Style” Latin dance in groups and privately. Rafael is currently a member of the Ire Omo Dance Company and Mambo Dream Team Dance Company. With the last one he has taken part of four Salsa Congresses, touring throughout the biggest Salsa events in the world such as Berlin -Germany, Toronto -Canada, Warsaw –Poland and Acapulco in Mexico.