

Media Contact: Kelly Mearkle
Email: kelly@fedujazz.org
Tel. 1.809.991.5554



**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC JAZZ FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 17th YEAR
WITH LEGENDARY INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS
Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 2013, Puerto Plata, Sosua, and Cabarete**

October 1, 2013, Cabarete, Puerto Plata - The **Dominican Republic Jazz Festival** now in its 17th year is the longest running jazz event in the Dominican Republic. The event is a **free, multi-day festival** held each year on the North Coast of the Dominican Republic, combining culture, entertainment and music education, while featuring some of the world's best Latin jazz groups and musicians.

Presented by the **Dominican Ministries of Tourism and Culture, JetBlue**, and businesses such as Millennium Resort & Spa, Sea Horse Ranch, Ron Macorix, Listin Diario, UltraVioleta, Casa Linda Residences, Banco del Progreso-American Express, The Municipality of Sosua, and Cibao Recycling, this year's festival welcomes distinguished musical artists from across the globe, such as **former New York Yankee and critically acclaimed jazz musician Bernie Williams**, along with jazz legends **Abraham Laboriel, Sr.** (Mexico), **Marco Pignataro** (Italy), **Ramón Vázquez** (Puerto Rico), Grammy Award winner **Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez** (Cuba), **Rufus Reid** (USA), **George Garzone** (USA), **Billy Drummond** (USA), **Alex Acuña** (Peru), **Richie Flores** (Puerto Rico), and the Latin Grammy Award winners **Johnny Ventura** (Dominican Republic) and **Milly Quezada** (Dominican Republic).

The Dominican Republic is **located** in the **Caribbean**, on the island of Hispaniola, and is a nation famous for its culture, heritage beautiful beaches and lush, tropical landscape. The 17th Annual Dominican Republic Jazz Festival will be held in the **seaside, touristic towns** of **Puerto Plata, Sosua** and **Cabarete**, on the North Coast of the island along the Atlantic Ocean.

Dominican Republic Jazz Festival Dates:

October 31, 2013 – Puerto Plata, Independence Park

November 1, 2013 – Sosua, Parque Mirador

November 2-3, 2013 – Cabarete, Cabarete Beach

Music Education and the Community

The Dominican Republic Jazz Festival is a **renowned, annual cultural event** that brings jazz to a diverse crowd of music lovers, comprised of local residents and tourists alike. The festival also brings **music education** to the region through its affiliation with **FEDUJAZZ**, the Dominican Republic Jazz Festival's Foundation for Music Education. **A non-profit organization that conducts music workshops for youth, FEDUJAZZ** invites the internationally acclaimed musicians performing at the festival to lead learning sessions with local students. Motivating and developing young artistic talent, FEDUJAZZ has partnered with local organizations such as the **DREAM Project** to further assist in the education of Dominican children, using jazz as the teaching platform. The Dominican Republic Jazz Festival is free to the public however VIP tickets are available for advance purchase through the website, enabling priority seating, complimentary beverages, and other festival perks, with proceeds benefiting FEDUJAZZ.

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Jazz Festival History

The Dominican Republic Jazz Festival is the largest free cultural event of its kind in the country, with very high visibility and massive attendance by local and international tourists. Since the beginning, the Festival has presented internationally renowned jazz musicians including winners of the prestigious Grammy Award such as Chuck Mangione, David Sánchez, Ray Baretto, Néstor Torres, Chucho Valdés and Arturo Sandoval. Additional musicians have included Stanley Jordan, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Danilo Pérez, El Canario, Ismael Miranda, Cuco Valoy among many other talents, performing on a stage designed by the local artist Adolfo Faringthon, whose art has become an important part of the cultural offering of the festival. The Festival is well respected for the quality and integrity maintained throughout the years, and is an event which has made it possible for many Dominican musicians to share the stage with some of the world's best jazz musicians.

Getting There

There are two international airports with regular, direct flights between the USA and the Dominican Republic, with easy access to the Dominican Republic Jazz Festival. A 3.5 hour direct flight from New York and a 2 hour flight from Miami, the closest international airport to the Festival is Gregorio Luperón in Puerto Plata (POP), located 25 minutes from Cabarete. The other option is Santiago airport, Cibao International (STI), located 90 minutes from Cabarete.

For flight information, please visit our sponsor JetBlue, at <http://www.jetblue.com/>. Car rentals can be arranged through car rental agencies in both airports. Details on Hotel and Vacation Rentals, and further event information can be found on our official event website, <http://www.drjazzfestival.com/>.

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