



**Stellar Line-Up of International Musicians to Perform at
The 2013 Dominican Republic Jazz Festival, including Bernie Williams, Rufus
Reid, Abraham Laboriel, Marco Pignataro, Alex Acuña, and Ramon Vazquez**

Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 2013, Puerto Plata, Sosua, and Cabarete

October 3, 2013, Cabarete, Puerto Plata - 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, the 17th Dominican Republic Jazz Festival 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.

Ramon Vazquez, acclaimed musician and Festival Artistic Director, notes that "The Dominican Republic Jazz Festival is a unique event that combines great Jazz and World Music Artists with some of the best Latin exponents, in beautiful beachfront settings in the Caribbean". Lorenzo Sancassani, Festival Founder and Producer explains, "The Festival has grown throughout the years to become an international cultural event of record, and we have established a Foundation (FEDUJAZZ) with an important social mission that provides music education for Dominican youth and local communities".

The Festival offers VIP tickets available for advance purchase through the website, enabling priority seating and complimentary beverages, with proceeds benefiting FEDUJAZZ, the Dominican Republic Jazz Festival's Foundation for Music Education. The musicians that perform in the Festival generously share their time and expertise in free workshops for Dominican youth. The 2013 line-up includes:

Thursday, October 31 - Puerto Plata, Independence Park - 8:00 PM

- **Pengbian Sang & Retro Jazz** (Dominican), celebrated musician Pengbian Sang combines the beauty and elegance of popular Dominican music with bossa nova, funk and jazz fusion.
- **Bernie Williams** (Puerto Rico), equally famous for his 16-year professional baseball career in Major League Baseball (MLB) with the New York Yankees, Bernie Williams is a talented, classically trained guitarist. A Latin Grammy nominee, Williams has collaborated with such artists as Ruben Blades, salsa legend Gilberto Santa Rosa and Bruce Springsteen.

-Continued-

Friday, November 1 – Sosua, Parque Mirador - 8:00 PM

- **Miguel Andres Tejada & Bolero Blue** (Dominican) Pianist and composer born in Santiago de los Caballeros, Tejada studied classical piano with Cuban teacher Hilda Melis. He went onto receive the "Michel Camilo Scholarship" at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston.
- **Richie Flores Group** (PR) with **Horacio "El Negro Hernández"** (Cuba), **Edsel Gómez**, **Mike Rodríguez**, **Iván Renta**, **Marfil Delgado** and **Ramón Vázquez** (PR). **Richie Flores** is one of the most in-demand percussionists of today's active music scene. Flores' style is an exciting, contemporary fusion, containing elements of rap, jazz and salsa. **Horacio Hernandez** is a renowned drummer and percussionist, who represents a new generation of great players following in the footsteps of countrymen Arturo Sandoval, Paquito D'Rivera and Ignacio Berroa. **Ramón Vázquez** is the Artistic Director of the Dominican Republic Jazz Festival, and Professor and Founder Member of the New Jazz and Caribbean Music Department of the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music. Vazquez studied at the Berklee College of Music, and received his Bachelors of Music in Classical Double Bass and Musical Education from the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music.

Saturday, November 2 – Cabarete Beach - 8:00PM

- **Joshy Melo** "Joshy and his 4 Jazz" (Dominican) Joshy Melo, from Montellano, Puerto Plata, is a musician, arranger, composer and singer-songwriter, performing with his group "4 Jazz".
- **Berklee Global Jazz Institute Performance** - The Berklee Global Jazz Institute performance will be led by Jorge Perez Albela and the Managing Director Marco Pignataro, in an initiative of the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston.
- **Abraham Laboriel** (MEX) & **Alex Acuña** (Perú) accompanied by **Iván Renta** (NY/PR) and **Manuel Valera** (NY/Cuba). A gifted bassist, **Abraham Laboriel** has recorded and performed with a remarkable array of jazz artists including Al Jarreau, George Benson, Ella Fitzgerald, Herbie Hancock, and Manhattan Transfer. **Alex Acuña**, drummer and percussionist, is one of the most sought-after Peruvian musicians of his time. Nominated three times for the American Grammy and Latin Grammy.
- **Youth Concert Series** – 12:00-1:00pm
The Dominican Republic Jazz Festival and FEDUJAZZ are proud to feature a Youth Concert Series on the main festival stage. 2013 will include performances by three different Dominican youth bands, more details to be announced.

Sunday, November 3 – Cabarete Beach - 8:00PM

- **Marco Pignataro Trio Mas** with **Rufus Reid**, **George Garzone**, **Billy Drummond** and **Matt Marvuglio** (ITA/USA). **Marco Pignataro** is a Boston based saxophone player, composer and educator originally from Bologna, Italy. Marco has previously shared the stage with **George Garzone**, saxophonist and jazz educator from New York, and **Billy Drummond**, American jazz drummer, but this will be their first live performance with the legendary jazz bassist, educator, and composer **Rufus Reid**, and **Matt Marvuglio** American flutist and composer, making it a true jazz experience.
- **Jochy Sánchez** presents **Milly Quezada** and **Johnny Ventura**, in "La Gallera", a spectacular show of Dominican rhythm and flavor. **Milly Quezada**, known as the Merengue Queen, is a Dominican Merengue music star and four-time Latin Grammy-Award winner. She performs with **Johnny Ventura**, the famous Dominican singer and band leader of merengue music.

<http://www.drjazzfestival.com>