

ORQUESTA BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB®

MUSICIANS' SHORT BIOGS

Cachaíto Lopez (Double Bass)

The 'heartbeat of the Buena Vista Social Club™', Cuban bass player Orlando 'Cachaíto' López is the only musician who has played on every track on every album in the World Circuit Buena Vista Social Club™ series. Cachaíto comes from one of Cuba's foremost musical dynasties, including his father, Orestes López and uncle, Israel 'Cachao' López, two of Cuba's greatest musicians. Cachaíto has an uncanny rapport with his fellow musicians – accompanying Ibrahim Ferrer and Rubén González on their world tours, playing alongside Omara Portuondo, and on his own groundbreaking debut album on World Circuit "*Cachaíto*", which won a BBC Radio 3 Award for World Music in 2002.

Manuel 'Guajiro' Mirabal (Trumpet)

Guajiro has been a key figure in the Cuban music scene for over 50 years and has played with just about every Cuban star you could care to mention. During World Circuit's now legendary recording blitz in Havana in 1996, Guajiro featured on all three of these seminal albums: Afro-Cuban All Stars "*A Toda Cuba Le Gusta*", "*Buena Vista Social Club™*", and "*Introducing Rubén González*". Having been an integral part of many albums in the Buena Vista series and a key member of Ibrahim Ferrer's touring band, Guajiro released his debut solo album, the Latin Grammy nominated "*Buena Vista Social Club™ Presents Manuel Guajiro Mirabal*" in 2004.

Jesús 'Aguaje' Ramos (MD, Trombone, Vocals)

He was born in 1951 in Pinar del Rio where he began his musical studies in the National School of Arts. He started playing the trombone in local groups until 1979 when he moved to Havana and began playing with the great female quartet Los D'Aida. That same year he took part in the "*Estrellas de Areito*" recordings. Aguaje has played on the World Circuit recordings of the Buena Vista Social Club™ and Afro-Cuban All Stars, and the solo albums of Ibrahim Ferrer, Rubén González and Omara Portuondo. He was Rubén González's musical director and he has been touring extensively since 1997 with the various Buena Vista Social Club™ projects.

Manuel Galbán (Guitar and Organ)

Manuel Galbán, electric guitarist, pianist, organist and arranger, is an institution in Cuban music. For many years, he was the musical director of the seminal Cuban doo-wop group Los Zafiros. With Galbán leading, the band created a distinctly Cuban sound, an eclectic mix of doo-wop, ballads and boleros, soul and samba, tumbas and twists.

In 1998, Nick Gold tracked down Galbán to play guitar on Ibrahim Ferrer's debut album. Galbán's rapport with Ry Cooder is striking. The duo's album "*Mambo Sinuendo*" won a Grammy in February 2004. He also contributed his

unique guitar sound to Cachaíto López's groundbreaking debut "*Cachaíto*" and Ibrahim Ferrer's Grammy winning "*Buenos Hermanos*".

Barbarito Torres (Laúd)

Barbarito's professional career started in 1970 with Serenata Yumunina, a group led by Higinio Mullens. When graduated he travelled with Siembra Cultural, later renamed Grupo Yarabi. Eventually he settled in Havana and became a permanent member of Orquesta Cubana de Cuerdas. Later he joined Celina Gonzalez and her Grupo Campoalegre as their musical director; at the same time, he was featured with Grupo Manguare, recording and touring with both groups. Barbarito is well known for his contribution with the Afro Cuban All Stars and the Buena Vista Social Club™. He stands out for his participation on Wim Wender's film for his incredible way of playing such instrument. Both ensembles won a number of awards, including a Grammy for the Buena Vista Social Club album in 1998. Since Buena Vista project Barbarito toured around the world with his group. In 1999 his first solo album "*Havana Café*" is released and in 2003 "*Barbarito Torres*".

Amadito Valdés (timbales)

Essentially "timbalero", and drummer, in deed Amadito worked in several important Cuban orchestras, though his trace for almost 30 years set the rhythm for the quartet "Las D'Aida".

Beginning with 1997 he takes part of what up to date is known as the project Buena Vista Social Club™, also in particular of the Afro Cuban All Stars orchestra and the group of the well known piano player Rubén Gonzalez.

Together with other stars of this international popular phenomenon he has acted in the most expensive show business plazas of the planet until now a days and since 2002, after the throwing in the world market of "Bajando Gervasio" (nominate to Grammy 2003), first record that leads as a soloist, he is also developing his artistic project, that conforms, besides recordings and presentations, a book, a sui generis clinic, a plastic arts exposition and other interesting musical actions.