



AFRO-PERUVIAN SEXTET MUSICIAN S BIOS

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freddy "huevoito" lobatón - percussion / zapateo dancing

A master percussionist and *zapateo* dancer, Maestro Huevito lives in Pamplona Alta, Lima, Peru. He has performed and toured internationally with Afro-Peruvian music luminaries and played and composed for Eva Ayllón, Peru Negro, Lucila Campos, Guajaja and la Peña Don Porfirio. A member of Peru's legendary Lobatón family, Huevito began developing his skills at the age of four watching his father's dance troupe rehearse in their living room. He is considered the world's leading authority on Peruvian *zapateo* dancing and one of the most virtuosic percussionists of his generation. Huevito's distinctive approach to the *cajón*, *quijada* (jawbone) and *cajita* in a jazz context has made him a pioneer among Afro-Peruvian percussionists. He has added an essential element to Gabriel Alegría's music since joining the ensemble in 2004. In 2005 Huevito was a guest soloist in a live performance in New York City by the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra of a piece for jazz orchestra and *zapateador* and his work is extensively featured on Alegría's CD *Nuevo Mundo* and in live performances by the Afro-Peruvian Sextet.

hugo alcázar - drums

Considered one of Perú's leading and most versatile drummers, Hugo Alcázar is in large part responsible for the development of modern Afro-Peruvian jazz drumming, having incorporated many of the principles of the culture's various traditional rhythms into his repertoire. A consummate musician and educator, Alcázar has recorded, toured and performed with the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra, Geoffrey Keezer, Russell Ferrante, Eva Ayllón and Susana Baca, among others. He has been working with Gabriel Alegría since 1989 and is featured on the CDs *Nuevo Mundo* and *Un Rezo*. Alcázar appeared with Alegría at the IAJE conventions in 2001, 2002 and 2005 and is currently working on an Afro-Peruvian jazz drumming method book.

yuri juarez - guitar

Yuri Juarez is a passionate scholar and disciple of the music. Most notably he has served as musical director and guitarist for the avant-garde Afro-Peruvian dance troupe Milenio participating in both Latin American and European tours. He has also performed and recorded with Susana Baca, Chaqueta Piaggio, Pilar de la Hoz, Ndugu Chancler and John Thomas and released a solo recording that traces the evolution of Afro-Peruvian music. Juarez's interest in American jazz and deep knowledge of Afro-Peruvian music make him one of the most sought-after contemporary guitarists in Lima.

laurandrea leguía - tenor saxophone

Saxophonist and composer Laurandrea Leguía has participated in Gabriel Alegría's Afro-Peruvian jazz projects since their inception in the year 2000. She contributed the title track of the album *Un Rezo* and is featured prominently on two tracks on *Nuevo Mundo*. Leguía has toured the USA, Latin America, Europe and Canada with various Afro-Peruvian jazz projects and her performing and recording credits include work with Ingrid Jensen, Maria Schneider, Natalie Cole and Ndugu Chancler. She has a bachelor's degree in jazz studies from the University of Southern California and is currently the Executive Producer of Jazz Peru International's Festival Jazz Perú.

ramon de bruyn - double bass / bass guitar / voice

The virtuoso South African bassist and vocalist Ramon de Bruyn is the newest member of the Gabriel Alegria Afro-Peruvian Sextet. De Bruyn has performed with Sibongile Khumalo, Winston Mankunku, Robbie Jansen, Neo Muyanga, Deborah Tanguy, the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, and various other ensembles in a wide range of genres, spanning the stylistic spectrum from jazz to rock, classical to African music, salsa to live house, on both the electric - and acoustic bass. De Bruyn's knowledge of African music and passionate interest in polyrhythmic musical constructs makes him a perfect addition to the ensemble. He is currently pursuing a Masters degree at New York University having received a Fulbright Scholarship and has been touring with the Afro-Peruvian Sextet since 2008.