



JAGO PASTORIUS

Legacy 5tet

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INTRODUCTION

Jaco Pastorius Legacy 5tet was formed by bassist Tomás Merlo in 2024 with the aim of showcasing the music that the legendary jazz icon Jaco Pastorius composed during the later years of his career.

Due to his untimely death, Pastorius was unable to officially release the music he composed between 1980 and 1987. These compositions, true to his style, were heavily influenced by funk, Caribbean rhythms, and jazz.

The JP Legacy 5Tet delivers an energetic yet subtle performance of these pieces, alongside some of his well-known classics such as Teen Town, Three Views of a Secret, and Continuum.



A photograph of a musician, Tomás Merlo, playing an electric bass on a stage. He is wearing a colorful, tropical-patterned shirt, dark pants, and a black cap. He is positioned in the center-left of the frame, facing right. The stage is lit with bright, warm yellow and orange lights, creating a hazy atmosphere. To the left, a grand piano is partially visible, and a large speaker with the 'Mark Bass' logo is in the foreground. The background features a blue and purple light wash.

Jaco Pastorius Legacy Stet

Tomás Merlo: Electric Bass

Ariel Brínguez: Sax

Jorge Castañeda: Piano & Keyboards

Dani Morales: Drums

Pedro Pablo Rodríguez Mireles: Percussion

WHY JACO PASTORIUS?

Jaco Pastorius (1951-1987) was an American bassist, composer, arranger, and producer, known for his contributions to funk, jazz fusion, and jazz. He revolutionized the role of the bass as a lead instrument, excelling in playing melodies rather than just supporting the rhythm, and introducing innovations to the instrument that, in the '60s and early '70s, were considered unthinkable.

A member of Weather Report from 1976 to 1981, Pastorius also collaborated with Pat Metheny, Herbie Hancock, and Joni Mitchell, and recorded 4 solo albums. His charismatic personality was as iconic as his music, especially when he famously declared himself to be "The World's Greatest Bass Player"—a claim that was far from unfounded.





Jaco Pastorius blended various musical genres in his work, ranging from classical and jazz to funk, rock, reggae, and Afro music, among others. These elements create a rich auditory experience when listening to his compositions.

His technical prowess set him apart, as he drew inspiration from other instruments and applied it to the electric bass, most notably in his innovative use of harmonics. As an improviser, he seamlessly integrated the language of Bebop into his playing. He particularly stood out for his mastery of the fretless bass, which became his signature sound, along with many other unique qualities that have solidified his place in music history.

TOMÁS MERLO

ELECTRIC BASS



He began his classical double bass studies in 1998 with Yana Dimitrova Alexieva, principal bassist of the Palma de Mallorca Philharmonic, and his electric bass studies with José Ramón Abella. In 2000, he enrolled at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, graduating in 2003 with degrees in double bass, electric bass, composition, and arrangement.

He has toured internationally with Rez Abassy, Michael Brecker, Jorge Pardo, Federico Lechner, Joan Manuel Serrat, Paloma Berganza, Randy Bernsen, Julius Pastorius, and others.

He has recorded with Patax, Marcos Collado, Israel Sandoval, Federico Lechner, Melendi, Lucas Vidal, and the Hugo Fernández Quartet, as well as contributing to the soundtracks of the films "Amor en Defensa Propia" and "Segundo Asalto".

In 2013, he released his first album with his band Tomás Merlo & The Freepunk Ensemble, titled "Vendetta", and in 2019, his second album "Crisis", where he plays the Chapman Stick. Both albums received critical acclaim.

Since 2019, he has been a faculty member at the Centro Superior Música Creativa in Madrid, and since 2013, he has focused on private and online teaching, working with nearly 60 students over the past few years. In 2021 and 2022, he participated in Antonio Banderas' two musical productions, "A Chorus Line" and "Company," and is currently the principal bassist in Disney/Stage Entertainment's production of "Aladdin."



SAX

ARIEL BRÍNGUEZ

Ariel Brínguez (Santa Clara, Cuba, 1982) has performed with world-class musicians such as Tata Güines, Changuito Quintana, Larry Willis, Simply Red, Alain Pérez, Niña Pastori, Ketama, Paquito D'Rivera, David Murray, Omara Portuondo, as well as Miguel Zenón and Marcus Miller, among many others.

Beyond words, one of the most profound lessons inherited from Afro-Caribbean culture is that music can only truly be experienced by letting go—releasing mental control, physical shyness, and collective prejudices. This essential difference is what sets one performance apart from another, and it is a hallmark consistently present in all of Ariel Brínguez's projects and concerts.

More than a virtuosic saxophonist, Brínguez brings a personal and unique sound and phrasing, together with a fresh, philosophical, and sophisticated compositional universe. His natural ease on stage and his ability to connect with both the band and the audience consistently exceed expectations. His many talents are reflected in the gratitude and emotion seen on the faces of audiences at every performance, as though that Yoruba legacy—that healing heritage of Brínguez—were embracing their souls in a joyful and renewing dance.

Ariel Brínguez has ushered in a new era for the sound of the Cuban saxophone.

JORGE CASTAÑEDA

PIANO & KEYBOARDS



After attending various conservatories and music schools between Madrid and Cantabria, he decided to pursue his higher education at Musikene (Basque Country), where he studied under renowned teachers such as Guillermo McGill, Bob Sands, Perico Sambeat, and Iñaki Salvador, among others. In 2014, he began his Master's studies at the Prins Claus Conservatory (Netherlands), including a semester exchange in New York, where he received lessons from acclaimed musicians such as Shai Maestro, Ari Hoenig, Taylor Eigsti, Aaron Goldberg, and Sam Yahel.

He has performed with internationally recognized artists such as Adam Nussbaum, Alina Engybarian, Genne Jackson, Arthur Hnatek, Joe Locke, Johnathan Kreisberg, Mike Mossman, Tina Raymonds, Román Filiú, and many others.

Currently based in Spain, he regularly collaborates with prominent Spanish musicians such as Carmen Vela, Ander García, Naíma Acuña, Tomás Merlo, Paco Charlín, Juanma Barroso, Jorge and Maikel Vistel, Guillermo McGill, Antonio Lizana, Daniel Juárez, and more. He is actively involved in projects such as The Machetazo, Carmen Vela Quartet, and Jazz for Children, among others.

He has performed at various festivals across Europe, including the Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland), Butgazz (Bulgaria), Jazzbozz (Netherlands), Oloron Jazz Festival (France), Getxo Jazz Festival (Spain), the Madrid Jazz Festival (Spain), and Donostia Heineken Jazzaldía (Spain).

DANI MORALES

DRUMS



Dani Morales is a Cuban drummer and percussionist with an impressive career that began during his youth in Cuba. He has been involved in major projects, such as performing with the orchestra for the Adolfo Guzmán National Contest, organized by Cuban Television, and has accompanied renowned artists like pianist Lissy Álvarez in her Havana Quintet project, La Charanga Latina, and Jorge Reyes, among many others.

With an international career, Dani has toured across Spain and Europe, performing with distinguished artists and bands such as Patax, Tamara, Marinah Abad, Sole Giménez, the Alain Pérez Sextet and Orchestra, Carlos Rivera, Erwin Schott's Opera, Ainhua Arteta, Diego Torres, Café Quijano, Dany Noel, Niño Josele, Antonio Carmona, Pitingo, Tino di Geraldo, Caramelo de Cuba, and Iván Melón Lewis.

In addition to his extensive stage career, Dani has over 20 years of experience as a percussion teacher, sharing his knowledge and passion for music with new generations. He is also an active content creator on social media, where he inspires and guides young drummers and percussionists through educational content.

A portrait of Pedro Pablo Rodríguez Mireles, a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a blue blazer over a white shirt and a grey fedora. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a dark, textured wall.

PERCUSSION

PEDRO PABLO

RODRÍGUEZ MIRELES

A student of José Luis Quintana (Changuito) and Héctor Luis Alonso, he graduated as an Instrumentalist, Percussion Teacher, and Ensemble Practitioner from the National School of Art in Havana, where he later taught Cuban percussion—with a special emphasis on folklore and popular traditions—as well as at the Higher Institute of Art in the same city.

He began his professional career at the Parisién Cabaret and went on to join renowned groups such as that of Jorge Luis Rojas "Rojitas" (the golden voice of Cuba) and NG La Banda, directed by maestro José Luis Cortés (El Tosco). He also performed with ensembles led by Pío Leiva (El Montunero), Eliades Ochoa, Amadito Valdés, Juan Pablo Torres, Guillermo Rubalcaba, Rolo Martínez, Teresa Caturla, Pedrito Calvo, Haila Mompié, the Puerto Rican singer Andy Montañez, among many others.

In Madrid, he joined the Habana Blues Band project (created after the success of the film Habana Blues). As a percussionist, he has collaborated with Chucho Valdés, Omara Portuondo, Alain Pérez, Iván Melón Lewis, Jerry González, Javier Massó (Caramelo), Los Yakis, Ernán López-Nussa, Pepe Rivero, as well as Luz Casal, Willy Chirino, Manu Tenorio, Kelvis Ochoa, Lucrecia, Diego Torres, Andy & Lucas, José Luis Rodríguez "El Puma", Reinaldo Creagh (singer of the Vieja Trova Santiaguera), Lulo Pérez, Habana Abierta, Telmary Díaz, and The Cuban Son Project (directed by Demetrio Muñiz).

His discography includes recordings with Bebo Valdés (Chico y Rita), Pepe Rivero, Manu Tenorio, Emilio Aragón (Bach to Cuba), Los Yakis (Sin Yakis no hay fiesta), and Pablo Milanés. He is the founder and director of La Rumba de Pedro Pablo, as well as the trio Pedro Pablo & Three Cuban Jazz, with whom he recorded the album Suená Cubano. He is also an endorsed artist for the prestigious brands Latin Percussion (LP) and Carbone Instruments.

VIDEOS

“click” to view on Youtube



(Use To Be A) Cha-Cha



Havona - Continuum



Las Olas

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