



WILLIAM CEPEDA

CREATOR OF THE PUERTORICAN JAZZ



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WILLIAM CEPEDA

CREATOR OF THE PUERTORICAN JAZZ

AFRO-RICAN JAZZ VISIONARY TROMBONIST
COMPOSER CULTURAL AMBASSADOR

William Cepeda is a Grammy-nominated trombonist, composer, and producer from Loíza, Puerto Rico, internationally recognized as the creator of Afro-Rican Jazz—a groundbreaking fusion of traditional Afro-Puerto Rican rhythms with jazz, world music, and classical forms.

ARTISTIC VISION & LEGACY

Cepeda's work transcends genres, blending Bomba, Plena, and Música Jibara with global influences from Africa, India, Andalusia, and the Middle East. His compositions reflect a deep commitment to cultural preservation and innovation, with over 150 original works and 50+ recordings to his name.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

A former member of Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Orchestra, Cepeda has performed on the world's most prestigious stages, collaborating with:

-JAZZ ICONS

Lester Bowie, David Murray,
James Moody, Steve Turre

-LATIN LEGENDS

Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Eddie
Palmieri, Rubén Blades, Chucho
Valdés

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INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

His ensemble has appeared at major festivals including:

- MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL
SWITZERLAND
- NORTH SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL
NETHERLANDS
- TABARKA WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL
TUNISIA
- PUERTO RICO HEINEKEN JAZZFEST
PR - DEDÍCATE TO WILLIAM CEPEDA

SIGNATURE WORKS & RECORDINGS

- MY ROOTS AND BEYOND
AFRO-CARIBBEAN JAZZ EXPLORATION
- BRANCHING OUT
MULTICULTURAL JAZZ FUSION
- BOMBA SINFÓNICA
ORCHESTRAL MASTERPIECE INTEGRATING
AFRO-PUERTO RICAN RHYTHMS
- LO NUESTRO TOUR
CULTURAL OUTREACH ACROSS
PUERTO RICO'S 78 MUNICIPALITIES

CEPEDA ALSO FOUNDED CASABE RECORDS, PRODUCING LANDMARK RECORDINGS OF PUERTO RICAN FOLK ARTISTS AND PRESERVING ENDANGERED MUSICAL TRADITIONS.

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WILLIAM CEPEDA – THE SOUND OF PUERTO RICAN JAZZ (AFRO-PUERTO RICAN BIG BAND JAZZ ORCHESTRA)

THE SOUND OF PUERTO RICAN JAZZ



WILLIAM CEPEDA
AFRO-PUERTO RICAN
BIG BAND JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Released in 2024, *The Sound of Puerto Rican Jazz* is a landmark recording that celebrates Puerto Rico's rich musical heritage through the lens of jazz. Led by William Cepeda's Afro-Puerto Rican Big Band Jazz Orchestra—an ensemble of 22 masterful musicians—the album fuses traditional genres like Bomba, Plena, Danza, and Música Jibara with the dynamic energy of jazz and world music. Cepeda's arrangements are both ceremonial and contemporary, featuring lyrical solos, rhythmic complexity, and folkloric textures brought to life by trombone and conch shell.

This album is rapidly climbing the charts and earning top spots in specialized jazz publications. *Jazz Weekly* praised its "white-knuckle energy" and "exquisite charts," while *JazzDeLaPena* hailed it as a cultural milestone that bridges ancestral roots with modern expression.

WILLIAM CEPEDA – ALMA TROPICAL (AFRORICAN QUINTET)

Alma Tropical, performed by the Afrorican Quintet, is a deeply personal and rhythmically rich exploration of Afro-Caribbean and Puerto Rican musical traditions. Released in 2024, the album reflects Cepeda's commitment to cultural storytelling through jazz, blending African ancestry with Spanish influences and island soul. The quintet's intimate format allows for expressive interplay and improvisation, highlighting Cepeda's signature trombone and shell work. *Alma Tropical* has also garnered critical acclaim, with Latin Jazz Network spotlighting it as one of Cepeda's most evocative works. The album is resonating with audiences and critics alike, securing prominent placement in curated jazz playlists and cultural features.



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CREATOR OF THE PUERTORICAN JAZZ



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- B.A. IN JAZZ COMPOSITION I
BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC
- M.A. IN JAZZ PERFORMANCE
AARON COPLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC
- HONORARY DOCTORATE
BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC (2013)

HE HAS TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, BROOKLYN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, AND LED MASTERCLASSES ACROSS THE AMERICAS.



CULTURAL ADVOCACY

Author of *The Music of Puerto Rico: Roots and Evolution*, a four-volume encyclopedia documenting the island's musical heritage. His work is used in schools and universities throughout Latin America and the U.S.

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