

PAOLI MEJIAS



"Latin bandleaders these days are making music that becomes simultaneously more modern & more ancient. **"JAZZAMBIA"** by the Puerto Rican percussionist Paoli Mejías, is the latest proof... it's exciting to see where it goes." - **NEW YORK TIMES**

Paoli's latest release **JAZZAMBIA** features:



MIGUEL ZENON - SAX AND
JALEEL SHAW - SAX
ANTONIO SANCHEZ - DRUMS CHRIS CHEEK - SAX
TONY ESCAPA - DRUMS CHRISTIAN NIEVES - CUATRO
LUIS PERDOMO - PIANO RAFAEL "TITO" DE GRACIA - TIMBALES
HANS GLAWISCHNIG - BASS RICARDO PONS - SAX
PAOLI MEJIAS - PERCUSSION YAN CARLOS ARTIME - CHORUS

Produced by Paoli Mejias
Recorded at Kaleidoscope Sound Studios
Mixed by Grammy Award Winning Engineer Jon Fausty at Morrisound Studios

ABOUT PAOLI: Renowned for his innovative vision, global style and unique sound, Paoli is a distinguished master percussionist and is ranked among the best in both Latin jazz and salsa. Performing for more than 20 years along side Latin jazz legends like Tito Puente, Dave Samuels, Dave Valentin, Paquito d'Rivera, Chick Corea, David Sánchez and Danilo Pérez, who all have called on Paoli for his unique blend of melodic sensitivity and blinding technique. Paoli also gained international recognition while touring the largest jazz festivals as Eddie Palmieri's side-man for more than a decade.

Now at only age 39 Paoli is at the vanguard of Latin jazz with three albums as leader of his own Quintet. Paoli made his successful debut as a bandleader with his self-produced record "Mi Tambor" (2004) which received a Latin Grammy nomination for Best Latin Jazz Album. Showered with positive press and accolades from the worldwide jazz community, Paoli's transition from sideman to focal point was explosive. His 2006 follow-up release "Transcend" features the New York Latin jazz scene's finest: Luis Perdomo, Miguel Zenón, Jaleel Shaw, Hans Glawischnig & Antonio Sánchez, all of whom also recorded on his 3rd CD "JAZZAMBIA" released in November of 2008.

ABOUT PAOLI'S QUINTET:

Paoli's Latin Jazz Quintet fuses straight-ahead jazz with African, Mediterranean, & Caribbean rhythms to create a new dimension of Latin Jazz that is energetic, intriguing and moving. The combination of these influences coupled with Paoli's rich knowledge of global rhythms form a truly unique sound that sets his group apart and is appealing to a wide audience.

Additional information and videos of live performances of Paoli's Latin Jazz Quintet can also be found on his website at www.paolimejias.com.

Best regards,

Sarah Vogel
Bookings & Management
787.548.0772
sarah@paolimejias.com / saritavogel@hotmail.com
www.paolimejias.com



"Transcending Expectations" - **DOWNBEAT**

"Paoli Mejias transcends the conventions of mainstream jazz, creating a rich tapestry of original, Latin-flavored, improvisational music" - **JAZZ IMPROV**

"It's his work as a leader that best reflects the importance of Mejías as a force within and beyond Latin music." - **DRUM! MAGAZINE**

PAOLI MEJIAS



The New York Times

LATIN & WESTERN SWING BANDS TOUCHED BY JAZZ (New York Times, Ben Ratliff)

Latin bandleaders these days are making music that becomes simultaneously more modern and more ancient. "JAZZAMBIA," by the Puerto Rican percussionist Paoli Mejias, is the latest proof. It includes several other like-minded musicians, including pianist Luis Perdomo & saxophonist Miguel Zenón; it's exciting to see where it goes.

TIEMPO DE EXPERIMENTAR (Nuevo Día, Gloria Ruiz Kulilan)

En su tercera entrega discográfica, el percusionista Paoli Mejias perfecciona una aleación de ritmos atados a las raíces negras del puertorriqueño... Si se tratara de comparar al percusionista Paoli Mejias con un pintor de renombre, el idóneo sería Salvador Dalí. Y es que la música creada por Mejias, al igual que las obras de Dalí, muestran elementos diferentes cada vez que se toma el tiempo para apreciarlas. Mejias gusta de fusionar ritmos, innovar y mantenerse a la vanguardia.

TOP 20 CDS OF 2008 (Fundación Nacional Para La Cultura Popular Puertorriqueña)

Ya a la altura de los máximos exponentes de la percusión en el mundo, Paoli Mejias reafirma con esta, su tercera grabación, por que es reconocido como uno de congueros de mayor peso en el ámbito del jazz latino. En esta oportunidad, rinde tributo a sus ancestros africanos, aunque en la pieza Jibarology incorporó el cuatro, magistralmente ejecutado por Christian Nieves. Definitivamente, un trabajo digno en el que prueba su ingenio y creatividad.

LOS MEJORES 20 DISCOS DE 2008: JAZZAMBIA (Nuevo Día, Jaime Torres Torres)

Con su tercer disco Paoli se establece como uno de los percusionistas más polifacéticos y visionarios del umbral del siglo 21. Su madurez en la selección del repertorio y en el desarrollo de un sonido propio en el jazz son encomiables. Su identidad, por supuesto, descansa en sus fusiones de jazz con bomba y plena. "Jibarology", con Christian Nieves en el cuatro y Miguel Zenón en el saxofón alto, es un manjar por la fusión del aguinaldo con elementos de la improvisación jazzística.

PAOLI MEJÍAS Y 'JAZZAMBIA' (Nuevo Día, Rafael Vega Curry)

Cuán agradable es ver -en este caso, escuchar es la palabra- un concepto que se va precisando, que va adquiriendo contornos cada día mejor dibujados hasta llegar a una expresión más diáfana! Ese es el caso de 'JAZZAMBIA', el tercer CD como líder de Paoli Mejias. En él, el percusionista puertorriqueño retomó las ideas de sus dos discos anteriores - 'Mi tambor' y 'Transcend'-, las pulió y las llevó a un nuevo nivel de universalidad... Para ello no sólo contó con una banda formidable (que incluye entre otros a los saxofonistas Miguel Zenón, Jaleel Shaw y Ricardo Pons y al pianista Luis Perdomo) sino también con buenas composiciones, algunas de ellas de los propios músicos... 'JAZZAMBIA' es música fresca, vital, de esas que mantienen al oyente preguntándose cuál será la próxima sorpresa que traerá. Sirve de clara señal de que Mejias está seriamente comprometido con su arte, con la definición de un concepto propio. (www.paoliMejias.com).

EDITOR'S PICK (Descarga)

A historic recording, if only for the depth of the talent involved, featuring some of the best players in the New York scene, including the ever present Hans Glawischnig on bass, Luis Perdomo on piano, Antonio Sanchez and Tony Escapa on drums, Miguel Zenón, Jaleel Shaw, Ricardo Pons and Chris Cheek on saxophones and the leader Mejias on drums. And they produce some fierce and intelligent music, as might be expected. It's searching jazz, flexible, and at this point so much modern jazz has taken on the Spanish tinge that it's hard to separate this as Latin jazz; this is the sound of the modern world. Again, historic.

WORLD SAMPLER CD (JAZZIZ)

The group burns from the drop on [Miguel] Zenón's "Diaspora" which moves swiftly along a molten river of bass and percussion, and features blazing solos from Zenón and [Luis] Perdomo. The title also relates to Mejias' stated goal to bring attention to the African roots of Latin Jazz.



JAZZAMBIA IS AVAILABLE NOW
CDBABY.COM & PAOLIMEJIAS.COM