

# Cimarrón: Luis Mario Ochoa & Friends

Born in Havana, Cuba, Luis Mario's earliest musical influences came from his father Luis Ochoa Sr. singer, guitarist and founding member of "Trio Voces de Oro", one of Cuba's most romantic ensembles.

At the age of 11, Luis Mario began full time music studies at some of Havana's most renowned conservatories. After 13 years of intense studies, he graduated with an honors B.A. in classical guitar from The University of Havana's **Institute Superior of Arts** in 1987.

In 1990 Luis Mario arrived in Toronto, Canada embracing the city as his new home. In 1992, he formed his band **Cimarrón**, (See-mah-rón, meaning "free spirit"), and three years later recorded their first CD "**A La Cubana**". Being one of the first recordings to emerge from Toronto's Latin music scene, the album introduced Canadian audiences to the ensemble's unique sound; tracks from this CD were featured on the TV series Traders.

"**La Fiesta**", their second CD, was released in 2000 to both media and audience acclaim. Tracks from this release have been featured in the US production Brave New Girl, and Bailey's Billions, a Canadian production, as well as in the TV series The Associates.

Apart from his productive composing, performing and recording schedule, Luis teaches and conduct a Latin Jazz Big Band at the renowned Humber College Institute in Toronto.

Luis Mario celebrated the tenth anniversary of the debut recording of his Canadian based Cuban Latin-Jazz nonet, **Cimarrón**, with the release of the group's third album, simply titled **Cimarrón**. The exciting effort expands the usual nine man ensemble, with a host of invited musicians, including special Cimarrón guests **Paquito D'Rivera**, **Guido Basso** and **Luis Ochoa, Sr.**

The program features five of the leader's own captivating original compositions, a couple of Cuban classics, two standards from the U.S. Great American Songbook and a dazzling D'Rivera samba.

Each of the ten tracks is treated to one of Ochoa's signature orchestrations that bring together the rhythms of his native Cuba and its Caribbean and South American neighbors with sophisticated harmonies in the jazz tradition. The arrangements beautifully showcase Ochoa's attractive voice and supple guitar, as well as the first class musicianship of some of the best soloists from Canada.

## The Press :

**Jazz Improv Magazine:** *Cimarrón: Luis Mario Ochoa and Friends is a "must have" recording for anyone who loves Afro-Cuban Jazz and outstanding vocals.* **by Ferrari** - April 06

**All About Jazz:** *Cimarrón is, at any rate, a surprisingly varied and entertaining album that will continue to engage listeners with its appealing arrangements and infectious Latin rhythms...Ochoa certainly proves himself multifariously gifted in original composition, fresh arrangements, and performance on both vocals and guitar.* **by E. I. Iannelli** - June 06

**Jazz Review.com:** *Cimarrón's one of the year's best releases of 2006.* **by Sheldon T. Nunn.**

**Jazz Time Magazine:** *This Latin Jazz session led by Havana native and guitarist-singer-arranger Luis Mario Ochoa is full of fire, finesse and authenticity.* **by Bill Milkowski**, April 2006

**Pop Matters:** *Cimarrón is a spectacular coming together of exceptionally skilled players whose individual excellences are only surpassed by their collective ability to exist as pieces of the larger puzzle.* **by Kevin P. Davis**

**Jus' Jazz:** *The ten tracks on 'Cimarrón' are a showcase for Luis Mario Ochoa to combine the rhythms of Cuba with Caribbean and South American cultures. The end result is a special blend of stylized harmonious music; filled with a serious taste of traditional Latin influenced jazz.*

**Descarga.com:** *The second offering from Luis Mario Ochoa is a fresh, up-tempo and high caliber Latin jazz release that provides a well conceived format for his fine guitar work. There are tight, well-knit instrumental tracts as well as some with vocals...It Cooks. Highly Recommended – Editor's Pick – January 2006*

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- 1- **Como Penélope**
- 2- **To Brenda With Love** (special guest **Paquito D'Rivera**)
- 3- **Lamento Cubano**
- 4- **Days of Wine and Roses**
- 5- **Afro-Cuban Chant**
- 6- **Alma con Alma** (special guests **Guido Basso & Luis Ochoa Sr.**)
- 7- **Mestizos**
- 8- **Old Devil Moon**
- 9- **Bacuranao**
- 10- **Declaración de Amor**

**Artist:** Luis Mario Ochoa & Cimarrón

**Album Title:** Cimarrón: Luis Mario Ochoa & Friends

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