



Andrew Kwan Artists Management Inc.

One of Canada's most exciting Cuban music ensembles, the Luis Mario Ochoa Cuban Quintet is renowned for virtuosity and incredible musicianship. Nominee for the 2007 Canadian Latin Jazz Artist of the Year, guitarist and lead vocalist Luis Mario Ochoa, is joined by acclaimed Cuban pianist Hilario Durán, bassist Paco Luviano and a dynamic rhythm section to perform music ranging from rumba to samba, bolero to waltz, son to cha. With a fresh approach to traditional and original Cuban songs, one is unlikely to find vocal interpretations more impassioned than Ochoa's and an ensemble with more "fire, finesse and authenticity" (JazzTimes).

Performing regularly in Canada, the quintet has recently made appearances at the jazz festivals of Montreal, Halifax, Markham, St. John's, Vancouver, Victoria, Oshawa, and the Toronto Beaches to name a few. International highlights for the ensemble include the Barbados Jazz Festival and Jazz at Lincoln Center's Dizzy's Club in New York. In the 2010.11 season, the quintet will continue to perform in prestigious jazz venues and festivals. In addition, they will appear as featured performers on the Performing Arts Series at Mount Allison University.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Luis Mario Ochoa's earliest musical influences came from his father, Luis Ochoa Sr., singer and founding member of *Trio Voces de Oro*, one of Cuba's most romantic ensembles. At the age of 11, Luis began full-time music studies and later graduated with an Honours B.A. in classical guitar from The University of Havana's Institute Superior of Arts (ISA). While most of his extensive learning was in the classical genre, his heart never abandoned his roots in popular music.

Embracing Toronto as his new home, Mr. Ochoa would form his band Cimarrón, with whom he recorded three critically acclaimed albums. Their first two albums, *A La Cubana* and *La Fiesta*, were some of the earliest recordings to emerge from Toronto's Latin music scene. Songs from these recordings have since been featured in film and television shows including the TV series, *Traders*, *Brave New Girl*, *Bailey's Billions*, as well as in the TV series *The Associates*. The ensemble's third, self-titled CD, *Cimarrón*, includes an all-star cast of jazz musicians with special guests Paquito D'Rivera, Guido Basso and Luis' father, Luis Ochoa Sr. This album features a blend of Cuban music with elements of jazz.

An avid collaborator, Luis formed a new Cuban quintet and in 2008, released *Momentos Cubanos*. On this album, Luis displays his virtuosity and versatility with authority. The recording features original and classic Latin American songs and reached the #2 spot on the world music charts at Earshot Canada! It is no wonder that the Latin Jazz Network noted that "you simply cannot get enough of the music. That's how infectious it is."

Luis teaches the Latin Jazz Ensemble at the renowned Humber College Institute, Toronto and conducts the Luis Mario Ochoa's Humber Latin Big Band.



LUIS MARIO OCHOA Cuban Quintet

"The music was for everyone, the jazz people who sit and savour their music and the dancers who move and are inspired with their music.

- SALSA TO



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