

Q-Z

Rafael Ithier



Rafael Ithier Nadal (born 1926) is a Puerto Rican salsa musician and the founder of the highly successful orchestra El Gran Combo. Ithier was born in Río Piedras, now a part of greater San Juan. Early years. Ithier Nadal was born in the Puerta de Tierra sector of San Juan. Raised in Río Piedras, Puerto...

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Ray Santos



Ray Santos is a Grammy Award-winning Latin musician. He was born December 28, 1928 in New York City to Puerto Rican parents. He attended the Juilliard School of Music where he studied saxophone. Santos has played and arranged for such

artists as Noro Morales, Machito, Tito Rodriguez, and Tito Puente among many others. Santos served...
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Reynaldo Jorge



Reynaldo's trajectory as a Trombonist follows that of the evolution of Salsa Music. Born in Puerto Rico, Reynaldo moved to NYC in 1971. That same year, he joined the Fania All-Stars, and with them was a part of the movie "Our Latin Thing". He has helped bring Salsa to the far reaches of the world...

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Ricardo "Richie" Ray



Ricardo "Richie" Ray (born February 15, 1945) is a virtuoso pianist, singer, music arranger, composer and religious minister known for his success beginning in 1965 as part of the duo Richie Ray &

Bobby Cruz. He is known as "El Embajador del Piano" (The Ambassador of the Piano). Ray (birth name: Richard Maldonado Morales was...

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Roberto Roena



Roberto Roena (born January 16, 1938 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico) is a salsa music percussionist, orchestra leader, and dancer. Roena was one of the original members of El Gran Combo, Puerto Rico's first successful salsa music orchestra. He later became the leader of his own band, "Roberto Roena y Su Apollo Sound", arguably one of...

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Rubén Blades



Rubén Blades Bellido de Luna (born July 16, 1948), professionally known as Rubén Blades (Spanish pronunciation: [ru'βen 'blaðes], but ['bleðz] in

Panama and within the family[1]), is a Panamanian salsa singer, songwriter, actor, Latin jazz musician, and activist, performing musically most often in the Afro-Cuban and Latin jazz genres. As songwriter, Blades brought the lyrical...

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Sal Cuevas



Electric bass guitarist and upright bassist Sal Cuevas or Salvador "Sal" Cuevas was for many years, a member of the salsa music group Fania All-Stars, circa (1978–1985), as well as several other top name salsa groups of the time such as Johnny Pacheco, Héctor Lavoe, Willie Colon/Ruben Blades, etc.. During this time, he was also...

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Sam Burtis



Sam Burtis is a New York City based trombonist,

composer and teacher with over 25 years experience performing in jazz clubs, recording studios and Broadway pits as well as with The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, Tito Puente, Charles Mingus, The Lee Konitz Nonet, Chico O'Farrill and the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra (now known as the...

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Sonny Bravo



Sonny Bravo (born October 7, 1936), born Elio Osacar, is an Afro-Cuban jazz and Latin jazz pianist. He was once a very good baseball player with many prospects born in New York, New York, though due to an injury in 1956 he sought out a career in music. It was then he started performing with...

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Tito Nieves



Humberto "Tito" Nieves (born June 4, 1958) (also known "El Pavarotti de la Salsa") became one of the leading Salsa singers of the 1980s and the early 1990s. Born in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico and raised in the United States, Nieves began his career while participating in Orquesta Cimarron, a New York-based group. In 1977,...

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Wichy Camacho



Known for his crystal-clear singing, Wichy Camacho is one of the most in-demand session vocalists in Puerto Rico. His resumé includes recordings with many of Puerto Rico's top artists, including Omar Alfanno, Johnny Caban, Ricardo Arjona, Celenia, Juan Carlos Coronel, Charlie Cruz, Carlos David, Descarga Boricua, Grupo Macambila, Freddy Gutierrez, Isidro Infante, Manny Manuel, Ismael...

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Willie "El Loco" Alvarez



Willie Alvarez was born on July 24, 1966 in Elmhurst New York. He began playing the trombone at the age of 11. Since then he has performed, traveled and recorded with some of the world's greatest Latin musical legends. Willie's first professional club date was at the age of 17 with the Tito Allen Orchestra...

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Willie Colón



Trombone player, composer, and bandleader Willie Colón is one of the pioneers of Latin American music. Despite initial criticism, Colón's album *El Malo* has become known as one of the first albums to feature the "New York Sound" that sparked a renewed interest in Latin music during the 1970s. Colón has been instrumental in the...

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Willie Rosario



Willie Rosario also known as "Mr. Afinque" was born on May 6, 1930 in Coamo, at Puerto Rico. He is a musician, composer and bandleader of salsa music. Early years Rosario (birth name: Fernando Luis Rosario Marín) was born and raised in Coamo, Puerto Rico into a poor, but hard working family. His parents realized...

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