

Mike Collazo

I know of no other timbale player that has worked with as many significant bands as Mike Collazo has. At the age of 14, Mike began studying with Ubaldo Nieto, the timbale player with the Machito Orchestra. Mike attended New York City High School, School of Industrial Design along with musicians, Orlando Marin and Joe Quijano. He used to give Orlando pointers on playing percussion back then. Probably the most famous alumnus of this high school is the singer Tony Bennett.

Upon graduating high school Mike attended Manhattan School of Music, long enough to learn how to read music. This skill gave him the opportunity to record many albums and jingles.

Mike's first big break came when he joined the band of Cuban singer Marcelino Guerra. At the age of 18 he joined the band of another great Cuban singer, Vicentico Valdez Band. He stayed with this band until he was drafted into the army at the age of 23.

Upon returning from the army, Mike performed with Eddie Palmieri's La Perfecta, one of my all-time favorite bands. One of the places they played was a downstairs club on 77th Street in New York by the name of Che José. I used to carry my newly

developed cowbells in brown paper bags to this club for the musicians to evaluate. Mike remembers me from this era.

Early on in Mike's career he was told the timbale job for Tito Rodriguez would be coming to him, but he felt he had to decline it because he was too inexperienced. In those days it was a very special event when a job opened up in one of these great bands since sidemen were accustomed to being in these bands for 10-15 years. Usually someone would have to die before any musical chair would open up. In the case of Tito Rodriguez, it was Papi Paganni, a great musician in Collaso's words, who had to leave due to personal problems and Mike took the job. He stayed with Tito Rodriguez for 5 years.

After the Tito Rodriguez band, Mike joined up with the Ricardo Rey band that was very popular in the 1970s. A solo of Mike's on the Agúsate album got him recognition as a soloist. His prior career called for his work to be that of a time keeper and not a soloist. Even until this day, he is known as far away as in the country of Colombia for his solo on this album. When I asked Eddie Montalvo to speak about Mike, his first thought was of this very album which he felt was one that defined an era in Latin music.

For the last 15 years, Mike has been a member of

the New York charanga band, Orchestra Broadway.
Another of my favorite bands.

On the personal side, Mike is a great father and grandfather and a gentleman at all times. He is always courteous and sensitive to others. My dear friend, bass player Eddie 'Gua Gua' Rivera, said that his sister, who dated Mike confirmed his gentlemanly ways.

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hNTZzbxtkA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydYAuABBus8>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33DH_wwug0Y

Credit:

Late Night		
2013Guitar/Two of a	Earl Klugh	Latin
Kind/Nightsongs		Percussion

2008	Live at the Monterey Jazz Festival 1977	Tito Puente	Drums, Group Member, Member of Attributed Artist, Trap Kit
2004	Auténtico	Gilberto Santa Rosa	Timbales
2004	Clásicas De Clásico	Conjunto Clasico	Timbales
2003	40th Anniversary	Orquesta Broadway	Group Member, Timbales
2001	Tu Bien Lo Sabes	Héctor Lavoe	Timbales
2000	Feelin' Good Jazz Club		Timbales
1999	Lo Mio	Carlos Santos	Timbales
1990	Gringo	Bernard Lavilliers	Timbales

1999	Untouchable	Tito Allen	Main Personnel, Timbales
1997	ElectroDuro	Charlie Palmieri	Timbales
1996	United Nations of Messidor		Timbales, Timpani
1995	Two Much [Original Soundtrack]	Michel Camilo	Drums
1993	Saxofobia Plus		Timbales
1993	The Best of Justo Betancourt	Justo Betancourt	Tma
1992	Live at Carnegie Hall	Tico Alegre All Stars	Drums
1984	A Giant Step	Charlie Palmieri	Timbales
1982	Back to Back	Ricardo Ray & Bobby Cruz	Main Personnel, Timbales

1981	¡Que Sentimiento!	Héctor Lavoe	Timbales
1980	Charangueando Con La Tipica 73	La Tipica '73	Drums, Tambourine
1980	En Algo Nuevo	La Lupe	Timbales
1980	Late Night Guitar	Earl Klugh	Percussion
1979	Alive & Kicking	Chamaco Ramirez	Timbales
1978	Rumbambola	Orchestra Harlow	Drums
1977	Con Salsa y Sabor: Charlie Palmieri & Menique	Charlie Palmieri	Timbales
1976	Javier	Javier Vazquez y Su Salsa	Timbales
1976	Reconstruccion	Ricardo Ray & Bobby Cruz	Soloist, Timbales
1975	Impulsos	Charlie Palmieri	Timbales

1973	Tito Puente and His Concert Orchestra	Tito Puente	Drums
1968	Jala Jala y Boogaloo, Vol. 2	Ricardo Ray	Main Personnel, Timbales
1967	Jala Jala y Boogaloo	Ricardo Ray	Main Personnel, Timbales
1966	Se Solto (On the Loose)	Ricardo Ray	Soloist, Timbales
1962	La Perfecta	Eddie Palmieri	Percussion
	Beethoven's V	Frankie Dante	Timbales

Source:

http://www.congahead.com/legacy/Musicians/Meet_Musicians/Collazo/Collazo.htm