

Victor Venegas

Victor Venegas, elder statesman of the Latin bass for more than 50 years began his illustrious career on the south side of Chicago where his family had settled after leaving Durango Mexico. Inspired by the great blues tradition of the big bands that made their way through the city, Victor began playing the bass at local honky tonks of Chicago's South Side. He continued to hone his craft in the service where he played in the army band in Germany. After he completed his stint in the U.S. Army, Victor went back to Chicago where he met percussionist, Nicolas "Cuco" Martinez. By the time Armando Sanchez's Nuevo Ritmo arrived in Chi-town, these two musicians had become proficient in Afro-Caribbean music. Meeting Armando Sanchez in Chicago was to be the turning point in Venega's life.

Vic became the bassist for Nuevo Ritmo that consisted of some of the very best Latin musicians in the country at the time in the 40s. Nuevo Ritmo emerged as the first "charanga" band in the U.S. inspiring the music of Charlie Palmieri and Johnny Pacheco. Victor's contribution and association with Nuevo Ritmo brought him to the West Coast where he played with such illustrious names in jazz and Latin jazz as Errol Garner, Cal Tjader, and Mongo Santamaria whose band he helped form. Moving to NY proved to be a wise choice, as he became the first

call bassist for many of the top bands. Numbered among these were Eddie & Charlie Palmieri, Johnny Pacheco, Celia Cruz, la Lupe and Ismael Rivera y sus Cachimbos. His discography boasts a who's who in the business.

Victor Venegas was an active musician up until his last two years. He played with the Latin Jazz Alliance as well as Zon del Barrio where he can be heard in his last recording. He taught music at both the Boy's Harbor Conservatory and the Bronx H.S. of Music under the direction of Willie Rodriguez, pianist for Machito and Conjunto Libre to name a few.

In his last 17 years, Victor could always be seen alongside his life partner, Aida Martinez. He is survived by eight adult children.

Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yne_Th8yIlA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTYlvxIH7aI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EPqQybWKEw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsFGIa0mB0o>

Credits

Year	Album	Artist	
2006	Collectables Classics [Box Set]	Esther Phillips	Bass
2005	Blue Voices: The Finest in Swingin' Jazz Ballads, Vol. 3		Bass
2004	Ritmo Afro-Cubano		Bass
2003	Cigar Lounge, Vol. 3		Bass
2002	Cal Tjader Plays Harold Arlen/West Side Story	Cal Tjader	Bass
2002	Classic Jazz: Jazz Masters		Bass
2002	Concerts in the Sun	Cal Tjader	Bass
2002	On the Waterfront	David Amram	Bass

Year	Album	Artist	
2001	Forces: 1977-1982	The Terrorists	Composer
2001	The NuYorican Funk Experience: Salsa Caliente de Nu York!		Composer
2000	1999 Ford Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival		Bass
2000	Black Hawk Nights	Cal Tjader	Bass
2000	Desde el Barrio Dela Salsa	Luisito Rey	Bass
2000	Les Incontournables	Chick Corea	Bass
2000	Les Incontournables	Mongo Santamaria	Bass
2000	Son de Melaza	Grupo Caribe	Bass

Year	Album	Artist	
1999	Brazilian Horizons, Vol. 2		Bass
1999	Burnin'/Confessin' the Blues	Esther Phillips	Bass
1999	Reads on the Road	Jack Kerouac	Bass
1999	Skin on Skin: The Mongo Santamaria Anthology 1958-1995	Mongo Santamaria	Composer
1999	Su Nuevo Estilo	Chivirico Davila	Bass
1998	Live [CD]	Los Jovenes del Barrio	Bass
1998	Live from Soundscape: Latin New York 1980-1983		Bass

Year	Album	Artist	
1998	Sabroso: The Afro-Latin Groove		Bass
1997	Monsters from the Deep	Lawrence Weiner	Bass
1997	Reconfirmando	Andreu Johnny Almendra	Bass
1997	The Riverside Records Story		Bass
1996	Evolucionando	Johnny Almendra & Los Jovenes del Barrio	Bass
1996	Familia RMM Recordando a Selena		Bass
1996	Latin Jazz Dance Classics		Bass, Composer

Year	Album	Artist	
1996	Masters of Jazz, Vol. 7: Jazz Hit Singles		Bass
1996	Nu Yorica! Culture Clash in New York City		Bass
1995	Cal Tjader's Greatest Hits [1995]	Cal Tjader	Bass
1995	Fania Latin Jazz Party	Fania All- Stars	Composer
1995	Maldades	Tito Allen	Bass
1995	Pull My Daisy	David Amram	Bass
1994	Recordando El Ayer	Celia Cruz	Bass, Bass Instrument, Main Personnel

Year	Album	Artist	
1993	Chivirico	Chivirico Davila	Banjo, Bass, Guitar (Bass), Main Personnel
1992	Maelo	Ismael Rivera	Bass, Guitar (Bass), Main Personnel
1992	Pa' Bravo Yo	Justo Betancourt	Bass, Guitar (Bass), Main Personnel
1992	Skins	Mongo Santamaria	Bass, Unknown Contributor Role

Year	Album	Artist	
1990	Atlantic Jazz: Singers		Bass
1982	Latin-Jazz Celebration	David Amram	Bass
1981	Amarcord	Nino Rota	Bass
1980	At Home/Around the World	David Amram	Bass, Bass (Electric)
1978	Esto Sí Es Lo Mío	Ismael Rivera	Bass, Bass Instrument, Member of Attributed Artist
1977	Vamonos Pa'l Monte	Eddie Palmieri	Composer
1976	Confessin' the Blues	Esther Phillips	Bass
1976	Eddie's Concerto	Eddie Palmieri	Composer

Year	Album	Artist	
1976	Javier	Javier Vazquez y Bass	
		Su Salsa	
1975	Otra Vez	Willie Rosario	Bass, Bass Instrument, Main Personnel
1975	Tremendo Caché	Celia Cruz	Additional Personnel, Bass, Bass Instrument
1974	Celia & Johnny	Celia Cruz	Bass, Bass Instrument, Main Personnel
1973	Tres de Café y Dos de Azúcar	Johnny Pacheco	Bass, Guitar (Bass), Main Personnel

Year	Album	Artist	
1972	Recorded Live at Sing Sing, Vol. 1	Eddie Palmieri	Composer
1971	Harlem River Drive	Harlem River Drive	Bass
1971	La Perfecta Combinacion	Johnny Pacheco	Bass
1970	Mongo Santamaria's Greatest Hits	Mongo Santamaria	Bass
1969	Afro-American Latin	Mongo Santamaria	Bass
1967	Mongo Explodes	Mongo Santamaria	Bass, Composer
1963	Mongo Introduces La Lupe	Mongo Santamaria	Bass
1963	Mongo at the Village Gate	Mongo Santamaria	Bass, Unknown Contributor Role

Year	Album	Artist	Role
1963	Watermelon Man	Mongo Santamaria	Bass, Composer, Guitar (Bass), Main Personnel, Unknown Contributor
1962	At the Black Hawk	Mongo Santamaria	Bass, Composer
1962	Ay Que Rico!	Francisco Aguabella	Composer
1962	Go, Mongo!	Mongo Santamaria	Bass
1962	Pin Pon, Bon Bon	Joe Loco	Bass

Year	Album	Artist	
1961	Cal Tjader Plays, Mary Stallings Sings	Cal Tjader	Bass, Bass Instrument, Main Personnel
1961	Loco Motion	Joe Loco	Bass
1960	Latino	Mongo Santamaria	Bass, Unknown Contributor Role
195?	Fantasy Sampler		Bass
1959	Arriba!	Mongo Santamaria	Bass, Composer
1959	Sabroso!	Mongo Santamaria	Bass
	La Fama	Mac Gollehon	Bass
	Set Me Free	Esther Phillips	Bass

Source: Internal