

 **BOBBY SANABRIA** – **Master Drummer, Percussionist, Composer, Arranger, Conductor, Educator, Producer, and 7x Grammy®-nominated Recording Artist --** A leader in the Afro-Cuban and jazz fields, Bobby is considered one of the world's foremost performers, educators and articulate scholars of *la tradicion* living today. The son of Puerto Rican parents, he was born and grew up in New York City's South Bronx, inspired and encouraged by Maestro Tito Puente. He has performed with a veritable Who's Who in the world of jazz and Latin music, as well as with his own critically acclaimed ensembles.  His diverse recording and performing experience includes work with such legendary figures as Dizzy Gillespie Tito Puente, Paquito D’Rivera, Ray Barretto, Candido, Yomo Toro, Arturo Sandoval, Roswell Rudd, Marco Rizo, Francisco Aguabella, Charles McPherson, Mongo Santamaria, Chico O'Farrill, Henry Threadgill, Larry Harlow, and the Father of Afro-Cuban Jazz, Mario Bauzá *(as his drummer for ten years in the Mario Bauzá Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra with which he recorded* *three Grammy®-nominated CDs considered to be the definitive works of the Afro-Cuban big-band jazz tradition.).*

JAZZ TIMES has likened Bobby’s virtuosity on drums to that of Buddy Rich, Louis Belson, Billy Cobham and Tito Puente, and his unique ability to authentically straddle all forms of jazz along with his command of hardcore salsa, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian jazz place him in a category all his own. Featured on numerous Grammy®-nominated albums, including The Mambo Kings and other soundtracks, Bobby is also a multi-mainstream-Grammy® and Latin Grammy® nominee with his own bands and student ensembles.

“Que Viva Harlem,”released in 2014 with Bobby conducting his Manhattan School of Music students, displays the virtuosity, passion, and intensity that best represents all of the Americas. “MULTIVERSE,” his 2012 CD, blurring the boundaries between jazz, Latin, funk, rock, r&b, gospel, avant-garde, and rap, has been praised for its incredible multi-dimensional vision bringing the big band tradition into and beyond the 21st Century—it received 2013 mainstream Grammy® nominations for Best Latin Jazz Recording and Best Instrumental Arrangement. In 2008, “Big Band Urban Folktales” garnered critical acclaim for its futuristic approach to the Latin Jazz big-band canon and was nominated for a mainstream Grammy® as Best Latin Jazz recording; it also won the 2008 JJA (Jazz Journalists Association) Best Latin Jazz Album. In 2002, his four-piece “Quarteto Aché,” hailed a ‘classic’ by Modern Drummer and acclaimed by the NY Times, was nominated as the JJA 2003 Best Latin Jazz Recording. Recorded live at Birdland in NYC in 2000, “Afro-Cuban Dream…Live & In Clave!!!” was critically acclaimed worldwide by jazz and Latin-music cognoscenti and was nominated for a mainstream Grammy and JJA Award as Best Latin Jazz album of 2001. “¡NYC Achéǃ” with his nonet in 1993 garnered 4 ½ stars in Downbeat magazine and received worldwide acclaim and nomination as Best Record of the Year by the National Association of Independent Record Distributors (NAIRD). Bobby has recorded three CDs with his Manhattan School of Music Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestras: “Que Viva Harlem” recognized by Downbeat as one of the Top 25 most important 2014 jazz releases, receiving 4 ½ stars; “Kenya Revisited LIVE” and “Tito Puente Masterworks LIVE” were nominated for Latin Grammys in 2009 and 2011.

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He has received Grammy nominations and recognitions for his work in radio and television, including documentaries for PBS, BRAVO, and The Smithsonian. In 2003, he received a Grammy nomination for the documentary, “50 Years of Mambo—A Tribute to Damaso Perez Prado” and co-produced the nationally broadcast documentary “The Palladium—Where Mambo Was King” for the BRAVO network, which received the 2003 Best Documentary award for cable networks. The documentary “From Mambo to Hip Hop,” with Bobby as assistant producer, was recipient of the 2006 ALMA Award. He collaborated on and narrated in “Latin Music USA” for PBS and the BBC which was broadcast nationwide by PBS in 2009 to 15 million people, doubling the PBS viewership in the Hispanic market. Mr. Sanabria was also presenter on behalf of this ground-breaking 4-hour series at the prestigious 2009 Aspen Ideas Festival.

Maestro Sanabria’s international clinics and performances include his multi-Grammy-nominated “Multiverse Big Band” at numerous high-profile jazz concerts and festivals, such as the Verona Jazz Festival in Italy and for a record-setting 18,000 people at Lincoln Center’s Out of Doors Festival as well as packed-house concerts at JAZZ at Lincoln Center’s Rose Theater and 4-night double-show sellout performances at Lincoln Center’s Dizzy’s Club CocaCola. The Orchestra headlined for the legendary Apollo Theater’s historical celebration, produced by Bobby, “From Havana to Harlem, 100 YEARS OF MARIO BAUZA.” Mr. Sanabria was selected by the legendary jazz pianist, Herbie Hancock, to represent Latin jazz and perform with his Quarteto Aché for the first Annual UNESCO International Day of Jazz (April 30, 2012) for the United Nations and the Thelonius Monk Institute.

A 1979 graduate of the Berklee College of Music and recipient of its prestigious Faculty Association Award, Bobby was the school’s first Puerto Rican student to obtain a Bachelor of Music degree. 2017 marks his 24th year as Associate Professor at New York City’s New School University and his 19th as Professor at the Manhattan School of Music in their jazz and contemporary music programs, directing Afro-Cuban jazz orchestras at both institutions. He has long been an activist, championing Latin jazz as a legitimate art form deserving a proper place in the history of the jazz continuum and has been lauded for his strong efforts for the 2013 reinstatement of the Grammys® Latin Jazz category which had been cut by NARAS from the awards process. He has received numerous recognitions for his work and outstanding achievements in the world of jazz, including Percussionist of the Year awards from Drum Magazine in 2005, the JJA in 2001 and 2013, and JazzEd Magazine in 2015; he received JJA Awards in 2001 and 2008 for Best Latin Jazz Album of the Year, and the KOSA Lifetime Achievement Award and Martin Luther King, Jr. Mentor Award in 2008. He was inducted in 2006 into the BRONX WALK of FAME with a permanent street plaque dedicated to him on the GRAND CONCOURSE alongside notables such as Colin Powell, Rita Moreno, Stanley Kubrick, and other Bronx luminaries. Mr. Sanabria was recently named Co-Curator and Artistic Director of the Bronx Music Heritage Center, which is reviving and preserving the rich history and creativity that defines Bronx music as well as nurturing new sounds and artists from the borough’s many cultures. For the past twelve years, Bobby has been Artistic Director/Artist-In-Residence for the annual Roberto Ocasio Latin Jazz Camp at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, the only resident camp for high-school music students in the country that is solely dedicated to the Latin Jazz genre, its history and culture. Sanabria’s 2016 schedule has included more performances at Dizzy’s Club – Coca-Cola and at Baruch College, Made in NY Tribeca Jazz Gala, Birdland, Carnegie Hall**,** theBluenote and Cotton Clubin Tokyo (Japan),Montenegro (Europe),St. Thomas(U.S. Virgin Islands)and scores of appearances throughout the world and U.S.He was the celebrated guest artist with The Cleveland Jazz Orchestraat theOhio TheaterinPlayhouse Squareand performed at theBop StopandCleveland Institute of Musicwith theU.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors Big Bandand theRoberto Ocasio Latin Jazz ‘Youth’ Project.

*Bobby proudly endorses Latin Percussion, Remo, Sabian Cymbals, Tama Drums, and Vic Firth Sticks and mallets.*
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