

# MANOLITO SIMONET Y SU TRABUCO

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Cubas 1# Salsa Pianist on April / May 2016



Sixteen-member Manolito y su Trabuco is one of Cuba's greatest and best loved timba bands. The group's innumerable international tours are a mark of its huge success over the past 15 years.

Salsa lovers know what they're doing. Manolito y su Trabuco is an innovative group with a unique line-up. The latter is based on the traditional line-up of charanga orchestras (violin, cello and flute) plus timbales, to which visionary band leader Manolito Simonet has added keyboards and drums. Top that with three singers, who all take solos, and you have a veritable war machine. Manolito y su Trabuco has salseros the world over dancing. Resistance is useless!

Born in Camaguey in 1961, Manuel Simonet learnt piano and tres with the Amateur Artists Movement. In the early 1980, he became the pianist for two groups, Lagrimas Negras and Inspiracion, and in 1986 became musical director, composer and arranger for the Maravillas de Florida orchestra.

En 1993, he created his own group, Manolito y su Trabuco. The term "trabuco" in Cuba refers to a team's power, a bit like the Haka war dance performed by the New Zealand All Blacks rugby team. Manolito's Trabuco lives up to its name. It is a powerful, explosive group that inspires ecstatic reactions from fans and a hearty recommendation to see them live. In 1994, Mi Salsa, Cuba's most popular TV programme, hailed the group as the discovery of the year. The following year they produced their first record Directo al Corazon, with Egrem and embarked on their first international tour. Both were an instant success.

More albums followed: Contra Todos los Pronosticos (Egrem, 1996), Marcando la Distancia (Egrem, 1998), Para Que Baile Cuba (Egrem, 2000) and Se Rompieron los Termometros (Egrem, 2001). Manolito y su Trabuco won the top dance music prize at the Cuban record festival Cubadisco in 1999 and 2000, as well as the Nicolas Guillen poetry for the track Llego la Musica Cubana. In 2004, their album 'Locos por mi Havana' (Egrem) was a huge popular success. It took the Egrem prize for top-selling record, the critics' prize and beat Los Van Van to win the year's top dance music prize. In 2006, the group brought out with Egrem, Hablando en Serio, which was a hit the world over, the same as their CD Control in 2008. 2010 the band released two albums: 'Trabuco una vez mas' – another great danceable CD and 'Beat Cubano' – the first Latin Jazz Album of the Band with great response of the critics.

Manolito combined recordings of the 'Sin Freno' album, released in 2013 with a collaboration with Dominic Miller, since more than 20 years guitarist and side kick of Sting. Both present the CD 'Hecho en Cuba' – a unexpected and marvellous musical journey.

True giants of Cuban music, Manolito y su Trabuco, are touring again Europe in April / May 2016 presenting their new album 'No puedo parar'. Not to be missed – not only by salsa lovers.

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## LINE UP

SIMONET PEREZ, Manuel Perfecto	BAND LEADER, PIANO
FERNANDEZ MACIA, Ricardo Amarais	VOCALS
RODRIGUEZ DUCANER, Gabriel	VOCALS
RODRIGUEZ DUCANER, Ruben	VOCALS
RAMOS BATISTA, Evelio Delfin	CONGAS
OLMO, Hector Randy	DRUMS
GUERRA MONTERO, Jorge Luis	GÜIRO
SANCHEZ ALVAEREZ, Ernesto	BASS
ARBOLAEZ SUAREZ, Rafael	TROMPET
AREOLA ACOSTA, Carlos Frank	TROMPET
PATRILGE TERRY, Osley	TROMBONE
GARZON TABARES, Ivanovi	TROMBONE
BENCOMO GUEDES, David Reicer	FLUTE
GASTON HERNANDEZ, Eutimio Nicolas	VIOLIN
CALDERON ESTRADA, Orestes	CHELLO
ALMAGRO LOY, Jorman	KEYBOARDS

## DISCOGRAPHY:

1995	Directo al corazon (EGREM)
1996	Contra todos los pronósticos (EGREM)
1998	Marcando la distancia (Eurotropical)
2000	Para quien baile (Eurotropical)
2001	Se rompieron los termómetros – (Eurotropical)
2004	Locos por mi Habana (EGREM)
2006	Hablando en serio (EGREM)
2008	Control (EGREM)
2010	Cuba Beat (BisMusic)
2010	Trabuco una vez mas (BisMusic)
2013	Sin Freno (Bis Music)
2015	Hecho en Cuba – with Dominic Miller (Qrious Muisic)
2016	No puedo parar (Bis Muisic)