

“BEST OF BOTH WORLDS”



TRIO

Donald VEGA - Piano

Current pianist in the Ron Carter “Golden Striker” trio

“An exceptionally articulate pianist” - JazzTimes

“A wonderful pianist with great chops and imagination” - Kenny Barron

“Vega exhibits firm technical command” - JazzReview

Clovis NICOLAS - Bass

“Great ear and unfailing swing” - SoWhat

“A fine bass player” - L’Express

“Mr Nicolas belongs to the top bass players in the industry” - Ron Carter

Luca SANTANIELLO - Drums

“Extraordinary artistry” - Todd Barkan, Jazz at Lincoln Center

“Very fine touch on his instrument” - Stanley Crouch

“Unique drummer” - Hot House Magazine

PRESENTATION OF THE BAND

It was during a tour in Colombia, in summer 2011, that the band “Best of Both Worlds” was created. Pianist Donald Vega, double-bassist Clovis Nicolas and drummer Luca Santaniello brought the exciting and swinging sounds of the New York jazz scene on the latin stages, and they immediately witnessed a powerful response from the audiences. The magic happened!

The concept? To create a dialogue between the two American cultures, the North and the South. To mix the seductive, powerful acoustic sounds of jazz music with the haunting melodies and soulful rhythms from Latin music. Tunes like “La Piragua”, “Tuna Mayari” by La Famelia Valeria Miranda or “Muito a Vontage” by pianist Joao Donato take another turn when interpreted with the cohesiveness and the fresh swinging sounds of the New York based trio. Vice-versa, jazz classics such as “Dolphin Dance” by Herbie Hancock or “Blue Bossa” by Kenny Dorham get a second youth when played with a powerful latin rhythm to them.

Even though they all live in New York, Donald is from Nicaragua (and an US citizen), Clovis is from France and Luca is from Italy. After their musical experience in Latin America, they decided to explore the multiple possibilities of a music that would combine the best aspects of both worlds. The latin universe they all come from, the one they share with the South American audiences; and the world they now live in, inspired by all the great jazz musicians in New York, the jazz capital of the world. This creates a unique 100% acoustic music, with reminiscences of latin grooves executed with tasteful arrangements, all performed by some of the most talented musicians on the scene today.

DONALD VEGA - PIANO

Donald Vega's style and virtuosity on piano, along with his composing and arranging, mark this young artist as a unique and exciting presence in the world of jazz. His sound has been said to resonate with a touch of Oscar Peterson's versatility and Bill Evans' elegant lyricism.



Donald was born into a musical family and began playing the piano by ear at the young age of three. His formal training began at six years old, taught by his grandfather and uncle, both noted musicians in Nicaragua. Due to the ongoing civil war, Vega immigrated to the United States at the age of fourteen without speaking a word of English.

Mastering English as quickly as the keyboard, Vega began studying at The Colburn School of Performing Arts, (where he also taught), and went on to earn a B.A. degree in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California, an M.A. in Jazz Studies from the Manhattan School of Music, and an Artist Diploma from Juilliard.

Vega's first album as a leader, *Tomorrows*, was released July 2008 with rave reviews, featuring Lewis Nash on drums and David J. Grossman on bass.

In 2009 he completed his studies at the Juilliard School with piano great, Kenny Barron. Donald currently resides in New York where he recently joined the band of jazz music legend Ron Carter. He frequently performs at nightclubs in New York City as well as throughout Europe and Latin America.

Vega has just released his second album "Spiritual Nature" with Lewis Nash, Christian McBride and Anthony Wilson for the American label Resonance Records.

CLOVIS NICOLAS - BASS

After having established himself as a first-call bass player on the European scene (performances with Dee Dee Bridgewater, Brad Mehldau, Michel Legrand,..), jazz bassist Clovis Nicolas moved from France to New York in 2002. Since then, he has shared the stage in numerous venues (Jazz Standard, Smalls Jazz Club, Blue Note, 55 Bar, Kennedy Center, Smoke, Jazz Gallery, Birdland, Alice Tully Hall, Dizzy's Club...) with some of today's most prominent jazz musicians, such as Grant Stewart, Harry Allen, Branford Marsalis, Curtis Fuller, Benny Powell, James Williams, Peter Bernstein, Joe Magnarelli, Sacha Perry, Sachal Vasandani, Simon Shaheen, Carl Allen, Jane Monheit, and Dan Nimmer.



He is featured on Josh Brown's album "The Feeling of Jazz", on new alto sensation Dmitry Baevsky's "Some Other Spring" (with guitarist Joe Cohn), as well as on Belmondo's "Hymne au Soleil" which won three Jazz Grammy Awards in 2004 and sold more than 20,000 copies.

He recently graduated from the prestigious Juilliard School with a Master of Music, having studied privately with jazz legend Ron Carter, and has been touring extensively for performances and master classes in South and North America through the school's educational outreach program.

Clovis was also featured in the concert "Ron Carter at 75" in Alice Tully Hall in March 2012, performing with such guests as Herbie Hancock, Hubert Laws, Russell Malone, Mulgrew Miller, Lewis Nash, Benny Golson and Buster Williams. That evening, Emcee Danny Glover introduced him to the audience as the first recipient of the Ron Carter Scholarship, an award based on merit and performance.

LUCA SANTANIELLO - **DRUMS**

Originally from Italy and a graduate of the Juilliard School of Arts, drummer Luca Santaniello has been living in New York City since 2001, performing as a freelance jazz musician and collaborating with musicians from the international jazz scene. During his student career he had many excellent coaches and teachers including legend pianist Barry Harris, drummers Kenny Washington, Billy Drummond and Carl Allen.



He began his professional jazz career at the age of 14 performing and touring all over the European territory with ensembles from the Thelonious Monk Association of Jazz Music (Campobasso-Italy) such as The Rhythm Machine, Orchestra Laboratorio Thelonious Monk, and other bands and orchestras such as Ketoniche Percussions. He also has a large experience in the Classical field having performed with numerous orchestra like the Symphonic Orchestra of Spoleto Festival (Spoleto Festival), Symphonic Orchestra G.Verdi (Naples), Solisti Aquilani (Aquila,Abruzzi), Molise Symphonic Orchestra..

He has performed in the finest New York City Jazz Clubs and venues as well as toured most of Europe with several different bands that vary in a wide range of jazz styles. Since relocating to New York, he has been collaborating with musicians such as Ron Carter, Joe Lovano,Benny Golson, Roy Hargrove, Lee Konitz, Joe Locke, Billy Harper , JD Allen, Harry Allen, Joe Cohn , Grant Stewart, Lonnie Plaxico, Dave Schnitter, Ted Rosenthal, Joel Frahm, Joe Magnarelli, Jimmy Bruno , Rhan Burton, Curtis Lundy, Paul Bollenbach, Darryl Hall, Francois Moutin, Donny Mc Caslin, Jay Leonhart, Avishai Cohen, , Ugonna Okegwo, Jaleel Shaw, Joe Martin, Miron Walden, and many others.

Luca Santaniello's bebop influenced style coupled with his deep classical training has helped to shape his sound and has given birth to a refreshing new voice in jazz. His exposure to dynamic modes of playing and to musicians with accumulated experiences only promoted the development of his own distinct musical personality.

CD TRACK LISTING

"BEST OF BOTH WORLDS"

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Our Spanish Love Song | (Charlie Haden) |
| 2. Tuna, Mayari | (Valera Miranda) |
| 3. Eu Sei Que Vo Te Amar | (Gilberto Moraes) |
| 4. Dolphin Dance | (Herbie Hancock) |
| 5. Green Chimney * | (Thelonious Monk) |
| 6. Blue Bossa * | (Kenny Dorham) |
| 7. Tenor Madness * | (Sonny Rollins) |
| 8. Besame Mucho * | (Consuelo Velasquez) |

Personnel:

Donald VEGA: piano
Clovis NICOLAS: bass
Luca SANTANIELLO: drums
+ Morgan JONES: tenor sax

(*) Recorded live in Pereira, Colombia, June 2011

CONTACT - LINKS

1. CONTACT

For booking and further information, please contact Mr Luca Santaniello at:

Email: luca@lucasantaniellojazz.com

Tel: (1) 917 374 8314

2. LINKS

a. Video

Concert in Manizales (Colombia):

“Autumn Leaves” : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnU-ZSgsoxo>

“Blue Bossa” : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLCOXSDRdwo>

“Green Chimneys” : http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ywxl4F_DS0

b. Websites

1. Best of both Worlds: www.lucasantaniellojazz.com > “Best of both Worlds”

2. Donald Vega: www.donaldvega.com

3. Luca Santaniello: www.lucasantaniellojazz.com

4. Clovis Nicolas: www.myspace.com/clovisnicolas