

Alí Bello - Biography

Venezuelan born Alí Bello has become one of the most dazzling and sought after violinists, distinguishing himself for his versatility among different music styles in addition to his well-found classical training and multidimensional improvisational skills, which have made him a top violinist of the Latin jazz arena.

Alí initiated his music training in “El Sistema” (The National System on Youth Orchestras of Venezuela) in his native country. His classical music education was godfathered by great figures of the Venezuelan music stage including José Antonio Abreu, creator and founder of “El Sistema”. In the mid 90’s Alí traveled to New York for his college education receiving Bachelor and Master’s Degrees in Music Arts and benefiting from some of the great teachers of violin in New York – Margaret Pardee, Sally Thomas, and Masao Kawasaki.

It was during his years in college that Alí began contact with the jazz and Latin jazz scene of the city and he ventured into new explorations of improvisational music and other styles. Thanks to a combination of his training and Latin background, Alí very quickly became a regular performer among big names of the New York music spotlight, stretching his credits and talents beyond the realm of classical music, including jazz, pop, R&B, Middle Eastern, flamenco, and especially the many styles of South American music – erasing the boundaries between classical, jazz, and folkloric genres.

He has collaborated and performed with such figures as Paquito D’Rivera, Dave Samuels, and The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. He is a regular member of La Típica ’73 orchestra and Johnny Pacheco’s Charanga. Alí has recorded and collaborated with bands of great tradition such as Orquesta Broadway and Africando as well as modern fusion bands like Alfredo Naranjo y El Guajeo, La Clave Secreta, and Los Jóvenes del Barrio.

It is much beyond the amazing Afro Latin rhythms that Alí’s strings reach. He has become a sultry sound in tango, regularly performing with Grammy winner bandoneonist Raul Jaurena and Daniel Binelli, and regularly collaborates scores with flamenco guitarist Pedro Cortés. His repertoire stretches even more to include gypsy swing and American folk music, as a member of the touring band of Doc Severinsen. He also infuses the violin into the popular rhythms of R&B, performing live with The Roots, Beyoncé, and Jay-Z. Alí can be heard arranging and collaborating dance beats with Grammy winner producer Louie Vega and Luisito Quintero, as well as recording with bachata and pop artist award winners groups Aventura and Don Omar. His violin has backed up amazing singers of the stature of Mercedes Sosa, Susana Baca, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Alejandro Fernández, and Cheo Feliciano among others.

He could be heard regularly with his Latin jazz group *The Latin Jazz Liaisons* and his new musical concept, *The Sweet Wire Band* – a blend of electronics and acoustic instruments, which include all his multicultural collaborations as well as expose his Afro-Latin roots and Venezuelan heritage.

Most recently, his last album *Connection Caracas - New York*, under the New York music label Zoho Music, has been reviewed as one of the *Top 50 Jazz CD’s of 2013* by JazzTimes Magazine. The album has been ranked 4th among *The Best CDs Released in 2013* by Mark Holston of JAZZIZ Magazine and has also been named *Album Of The Week* by the Latin Jazz Network, among other reviews. The album’s many musical colors and textures create canvases of musical intermixtures in which Alí’s virtuosic violin, and it’s very distinctive palette of sounds and timbre, is the protagonist.

From international performances to New York City local events, from tropical Afro-Caribbean beats to swing and jazz, from arrangements in salsa to collaborations in Middle Eastern music, from Carnegie Hall performances to innovative recording sessions, and from güajiro folkloric phrases to electric funk grooves, Alí Bello has proven himself as a musician with a skillful repertoire to be reckoned with and much more to come.

Alí Bello & The Sweet Wire Band

Captivating audiences with an invigorating and fresh perspective of Latin jazz, **Alí Bello and The Sweet Wire Band** presents a fusion of Latin jazz with many different Afro-Venezuelan and Caribbean musical styles.

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“Connection Caracas - New York ... exudes vitality, cohesiveness, and a natural flow...”
Scott Albin / *JazzTimes Magazine*

“The mix of classical, folk, jazz, roots, and Latin genres are very compelling and enthralling”...
Matthews Foss / *Inside World Music*

“A wonderful, indefatigable set that just keeps right on delivering ...”
Chris Spector / *Midwest Records*

“Alí Bello is a master of his instrument; a player of extraordinary refinement, who seems to suffuse the violin with a powerful electrical charge as he plays it”...
Raul da Gama / *Latin Jazz Network*

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