

Juan Kemell y La Barriada—Description & History



The Cuban salsa and timba group Juan Kemell y La Barriada comes back to Europe in **October – November 2009** with the Havananza Tour!

Music producer Janne Bogdan at Soneros Records enjoyed the group at the Stockholm and Gothenburg concerts in 2006 and puts his experience of the group in this way:

La Barriada is one of the most well-rehearsed bands I have listened to and seen from Cuba, with a modern and fresh sound, and a rhythm section that is steaming with energy and new thinking. One of the group's strongest sides is the three lead singers who sing, entertain, and make the concert into a real show. La Barriada is pure and simple energy of Afro-Cuban rhythms with tasteful popular features.

Last time we saw La Barriada was in Scandinavia in the summer of 2006 with the tour "Salsa Goes Nordic!" ["Salsa så in i Norden!"] Everybody was invited to a first-class experience of salsa and a group that sounds better than ever. As Pedro de la Hoz, one of Cuba's most prominent music and art critics, puts it in his review of La Barriada's latest CD "Adiós a la tristeza":

Definitely, La Barriada sounds timba, but without exceeding the norm. Apart from getting the newest of the newest, the dancer is given the blessing of safe and sound rhythmic to release his or her expert choreography. Apart from a virtuoso deliverance, the listener gets pleasure from the touch of actuality that runs through the music scales. Because in Juan Kemell's understanding, the most important thing is to connect to the desires of the audience and their demands for an explosive music that, nevertheless, does not betray the generic patterns of the son.

A brief history of La Barriada

Juan Kemell, composer, arranger, and an exceptional trumpeter, is the director of La Barriada, a Cuban band most known for its salsa and timba repertory but who also masters a variety of musical genres, including that of latin jazz.

Founded a decade ago as a group of young musicians all graduated from Cuban music institutes, some of them, like Juan Kemell himself, left prominent groups behind and turned La Barriada into a group that at this moment in time has toured widely over the world, including Japan, Spain, France, England, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Greece, Venezuela, México, Denmark and Sweden. The international occasions have been numerous and different in character. In 1997, for example, the band played in Tokyo, at a Fashion Festival sponsored by the brand Triumph and with 17 North American dancers and 4 models from Cuba adding to the show. A couple of years later, the group played at the 40th celebration of the famous club Ronnie Scott's in London. Jazz festivals in southern France, concerts in the Bahamas, inaugurations of salsa clubs in Sweden; La Barriada has brought their music to a lot of people in the world and is eager to invite more people to their ritmos.

Diskografi

*CD "La Barriada", Milán Latino (Frankrike)

*CD "Laberinto de pasiones", Victor (Japan)

*CD "Río abajo", EGREM (Cuba), 2002

*CD "Adiós a la tristeza", EGREM (Cuba), 2005

*CD "Havananza", EGREM (Cuba), to be released in the Spring of 2007

