



## Aldo López-Gavilán

Aldo and his family are doing well, and Aldo continues to travel extensively. Aldo and his quartet will be appearing at the Tempe Center for the Arts on January 20 as part of Lakeshore Music's 2017-18 season in Tempe, AZ. There will be a *Meet the Artist* reception prior to the concert. Please drop a note to Woody if you'd like to join us for this reunion.

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## CRV Season 2017-18

We will continue to roll with what comes. Please let your friends know we are the absolute best sanctioned Cuba *People to People* program in the business. We are moving forward with several trips in 2018-19, including a July 2018 delegation for educators. We will be adding more trips with distinguished conductors and artists for late 2018 and early 2019.

If your friends would like to travel with us, tell them to get in touch and mention your name. They will receive a \$300 discount per person. And, if you would like to return with us, we will give you best possible price we can. Check out this recent video link.

[CRV promo](#)

[www.cubarhythmviews.org](http://www.cubarhythmviews.org)

## Hola, CRV Alumni:

Summer's greetings to all our Cubanistas! We keep up with some of you on Facebook, but for most, it has been a while since you heard from us. However, with everything that's happening, we thought you might enjoy a periodic update on the ever-changing situation that is Cuba. We'll call it the CRV insiders' quarterly newsletter and we promise no fake news.

As you know, we have stayed the course in Cuba through thick and thin. The past four years have been both challenging and rewarding for us but we are more committed to CRV with every group. We have not only become the best at what we do, but we have become more understanding and better people. As you recall, things can and will change without notice in Cuba and patience has become our way of life.

Our musician and artist friends in Cuba deeply appreciate our loyalty and support. And, because you have met them and have a deeper understanding of their problems, we think you would want to know how they are coping with the results of what comes next under the Trump administration. We have already heard from a dear friend in Havana who has done well with independent tours (outside Havanatur) and the cancelations have already begun for 2018.

So, we ask that you please forward our updates to your friends and colleagues who might be interested in traveling with us next year. We have some great trips on the books and more in the works. [www.cubarhythmviews.org](http://www.cubarhythmviews.org)

Saludos cálidos,

Woody & Neil



## The Trump Doctrine

It's clear the embargo is not going to be lifted in the foreseeable future and none of what comes next will be good for Cubans, but the People to People visits will supposedly continue unabated, which is good for us. Group travel will still be permitted, but travelers and tour operators will be under tighter scrutiny. It's the unsanctioned individual travelers who will be eliminated. Here are a few recent background articles that outline the confusion that is now the US foreign policy on Cuba.

[CNN: Trump's Policy](#)

[Trump unveils new U.S. policy](#)

[Who exactly is Trump trying to help?](#)

[Five things you need to know about Trump's Cuban policy](#)

[What Trump's new Cuba policy means to future travelers](#)

[The impact on Trump's changes to Cuba policy will likely be small.](#)

[www.cubarhythmviews.org](http://www.cubarhythmviews.org)

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## 2016-17 Season in review

We had a great season in 2016-17, and despite the political and competitive obstacles, we delivered three successful trips—two for the Columbus Jazz Orchestra and one with the Bremerton (WA) Symphony. All three of those trips were at near capacity and everyone had a spectacular time. We are extremely proud of what we produced with Byron Stripling for the sold out Havana and Cienfuegos concerts. The latter was perhaps the finest shows we have ever been involved with on any level. And Byron's master class at Teatro Tomás Terry for Escuela Benny Moré students was thrilling. We are truly a cultural exchange program and that sets us apart from the competition.



## The buzz about CRV...

*Dear Woody and Neil,*

*Sally and I were very pleased with the trip you put together! We have been on many "tours" to other countries but have never experienced anything as moving and beautiful as this.*

*From day one, we were given intimate glimpses into the hearts and souls of the dancers, singers, musicians and teachers who shared their lives with us.*

*Their performances were beautiful and compelling, not just because they are remarkably talented but also because they generously shared the joy of being able to create and participate in something larger than themselves, thereby making them and us a little more whole and a little more complete on this earth, if only for a moment (and then for another) which is where true art can take us on special occasions like these.*

*We know that this could not have happened without the years you both spent gaining the confidence and trust of these artists. Your investment of yourselves in this work has generated tremendous dividends--not in money but in the form of the greater "tender" of uplifted minds and spirits.*

*Sally and I are grateful to you and Byron and Ry and all the other folks involved in making this trip happen. We shall never forget it.*

—Tom K, Tempe, AZ, May 12, 2017