



CR&V Insiders' Newsletter: Fall 2018

Chuchito Valdés: March 27-April 3, 2019

Eight-time Latin Grammy nominee Chuchito Valdés is Cuban music royalty. He has followed in the footsteps of his legendary father, Chucho Valdés and



grandfather, the great Bebo Valdés. Chuchito continues the generational legacy of exalted piano players from Cuba and his return is a cause for national celebration.

With influences of Caribbean rhythms and jazz, Chuchito creates an exciting and inspiring blend of infectious music that drives his audiences around the world wild. He recorded and performed with the world-renowned Cuban band, *Irakere*, which he led for two years. He regularly performs at festivals and arena concerts the world over: from Cuba to North America, South America, and Europe.

Scottsdale Arts: April 10-17, 2019

The 13th Havana Biennial

Scottsdale Arts' *Discover Cuba* delegation will arrive in Havana for the opening days of the Havana Biennial which begins April 12. The festival's theme will be *Construction of the Possible* recalling the indefinite delay due to damage caused last year by Hurricane Irma.

The Havana Biennial began in 1984 dedicating its inaugural event to artists from Latin America and the Caribbean. Since the second Biennial of 1986, artists from Africa, Asia and the Middle East have also taken part. This tradition, which has remained during each of the subsequent editions, turned Havana into an important venue for the gathering and exhibition of 'non-Western' art. The Havana Biennial has focused its attention on artists whose works represent concerns and conflicts common to their regions.

[Learn more about the 13th Annual Havana Biennial](#)

Our signature CR&V program, which captures the magic of Havana's world renowned nightlife and performing arts, will be at the heart of the Scottsdale Arts delegation. Coupled with Havana Biennial 2019 events, our CR&V *Discover Cuba* trip will be an historic once-in-a-lifetime cultural experience.

Cuba Rhythm & Views Launches Trio of Cultural Delegations for 2019

Our May, 2018 encore trip to Cuba with the great Byron Stripling was spectacular despite tropical storm Alberto parking himself over Cuba for nearly our entire time in Havana. But, our troupe of intrepid travelers took the wet and wind in stride and never complained. Not once. And Byron's final concert with Aldo López-Gavilán at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana was another incomparable CR&V produced performance. Everyone went home with a smile on their face.

On March 27-April 3, we begin the year with a delegation of Cuban music aficionados for the long-awaited homecoming performance of eight-time Latin Grammy nominee, composer and pianist, **Chuchito Valdés**, son of legendary Cuban pianist, Chucho Valdés. It has been nearly a decade since Chuchito has performed publicly in Cuba and our delegates will be VIPs for *Chuchito Returns* at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana on April 2. This will be a rare insight into Havana's music scene and the life of one of Cuba's most celebrated musicians and his family.

Next, April 10-17, will be an inspiring collaboration with the **Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts** and the **Scottsdale Museum of Modern Art**. This delegation is the culmination of Scottsdale Arts' season-long *Discovery Series* on Cuban art, literature, music and culture. [Scottsdale Arts Discovery Cuba](#).

As an added bonus, the trip will overlap with the 13th Havana Biennial, a celebration of Caribbean art and culture, and our delegates will have VIP status for the opening events. More on the Biennial in the sidebar column to the left.

Our spring season concludes May 22-29 with a collaboration with the **Grand Canyon Music Festival** and its founders Clare Hoffman and harmonica virtuoso, Robert Bonfiglio. In Cuba, Robert will perform in separate concerts with the Havana Chamber Orchestra and the Aldo López-Gavilán Quartet. He will also give a master class for some of Cuba's most promising musicians at the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana and the Benny Moré School of the Arts in Cienfuegos.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in traveling with us next year, please ask them to get in touch to reserve their spot before these go on sale to the general public. Cuba is heating up!

Saludos cálidos,

Woody & Neil

CR&V team news cont.

Robert Bonfiglio/Grand Canyon Music Festival Rescheduled: May 22-29, 2019

Called “the Paganini of the Harmonica” by the *Los Angeles Times*, Robert Bonfiglio has dazzled audiences at Carnegie Hall, Hollywood Bowl, the Gewandhaus, Teatro Colón, Teatro Massimo, Teatro Amazonas, Kennedy Center, Boston Symphony Hall, Lincoln Center and throughout the world with his ability to play harmonica concertos and then turn around and sizzle on the blues.



Bonfiglio has been a concerto soloist with leading orchestras around the world including the Minnesota Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orchestra of the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Leipzig M D R-Radio Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Madrid Radio Television Española Orchestra, Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla, Edmonton Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic, as well as Milwaukee Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Utah Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Cuba Rhythm and News:

[Granma: official publication of the Cuban Communist Party](#)

[Reuters: Cuba Takes Hard Look at Modernizing Cuban Constitution](#)

[Universidad de las Artes \(ISA\) receives Getty Foundation Grant](#)

[BBC: New Cuban Constitution Draft Reaffirms Private Property Rights](#)

[To understand Cuba's emerging class system, try the ice cream](#)

[Miami Herald: Cuba badly needs currency reform, but it won't happen yet, economists say](#)

[U.S. State Department downgrades Cuba travel advisory](#)

[The Cuban economy: what's next for the private sector?](#)



Enjoy these excerpts from our recent concert with Byron Stripling
Aldo López-Gavilán, Coqui Calzadilla, Julio González and Ruy
López-Nussa

–May 29, 2018; Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana

Gershwin: Lullaby

Dixon: Hoochie Coochie Man

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