

CUBA

Rhythm and Views

A CULTURAL EXPLORATION LIKE NO OTHER!

SHREVEPORT
SYMPHONY

Unveiling Cuba:

*Join Michael Buttermann
for Insider Access to
Cuba's Vibrant Arts Scene*

April 15-20, 2026



Cuba Rhythm and Views is honored to present this opportunity to experience Havana's creative arts, culture, people and nightlife with conductor Michael Buttermann. Delegates will be dining in Havana's world renowned privately-owned *paladares* and stay in the finest hotel, Iberostar Marqués de la Torre.

Cuba Rhythm and Views' business model from Day One has always been in support of the Cuban people. For us, it is about the art. We view ourselves as cultural ambassadors creating bonafide dialogue and understanding between our peoples. Thankfully there are hundreds of our CR&V alumni scattered throughout the country who feel the same way. From classical music to jazz, dance and the visual

arts, CR&V reveals the challenging reality of the arts in Cuba that is remarkably different from anywhere else in the world.

We have witnessed the glimpse of hope that came with the political rapprochement in 2014, only to have it rolled back five years later. As the diplomatic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cuba continues to degrade after more than six decades of embargo, our cultural and educational exchanges are among the few legal opportunities remaining for Americans to visit Cuba.

LEGAL
TRAVEL TO
CUBA

April 14, 2026 travel to Miami on your own

April 15-20, 2026

Double Occupancy per person \$4,575

Single Occupancy surcharge: \$650



PRICE INCLUDES

- One night at Miami International Airport Hotel
- 5 nights in Havana's most prestigious hotel, Iberostar Marqués de la Torre
- 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare between Miami and Havana
- All land transportation via luxury coach
- A different private performance most days with Cuba's most celebrated performers from all genres
- All activities and events include admissions and ground transportation
- Baggage transfers and handling at airport and hotel arrival and departure
- Cuban visa fees, departure tax, and medical insurance while in Cuba

NOT INCLUDED

- U.S. domestic airfare and passport
- 3 dinners and 2 lunches so you may explore local dining options
- Independent and private transfer for activities not on the itinerary
- Any baggage charges or fees
- Trip cancellation insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal items such as telephone services, cigars, laundry
- While in Cuba, we will collect \$200 from each traveler to cover tips for all program activities

ELIGIBILITY

To secure your space, please make your refundable deposit here. cubarhythmviews.com/reserve/
Priority will be based on the order in which we receive deposits. Upon receiving your deposit, we will send you an application.



MEET YOUR CULTURAL ENVOY

Michael Buttermann



Having journeyed to Cuba several times now, and each time been profoundly moved, I can tell you that the island's musical soul is unlike anything else in the world. It's a vibrant, living force that resonates in every corner, from the grand concert halls to the intimate gatherings of artists. Every visit has enriched me, leaving a piece of Cuba within my own heart, and I've come to cherish the island's unique blend of artistic energy and human warmth.

I'm thrilled to be returning to Cuba next year, and I invite you to join me for an immersive exploration of this extraordinary cultural landscape. This is more than just a trip; it's an opportunity to connect with the very soul of Cuban art. We'll move beyond the surface, engaging directly with the people and passions that make this island so captivating. Your participation in this journey will not only enrich your own understanding but also support the efforts to empower these artists and help amplify their voices.

Imagine sharing intimate moments with Cuba's finest musicians, dancers, and visual artists, experiencing their art in the very spaces where it's created. We'll explore the hidden gems of Havana, uncover the stories behind their work, and witness the transformative power of artistic expression.

As a particular highlight of the trip, I will have the joy of conducting the esteemed Havana Chamber Orchestra in a special concert held in one of Havana's historical theaters—an experience that promises to be truly unforgettable. I eagerly anticipate sharing the magic of Cuba's artistic spirit with you.

Given the unique and limited nature of this experience, I encourage you to reserve your place as soon as possible.

With excitement and gratitude,



Michael Buttermann maintains a busy schedule as Music Director of four American orchestras: Shreveport Symphony, Williamsburg Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, and Lancaster Symphony orchestras. He previously had long associations with the Rochester Philharmonic and Jacksonville Symphony orchestras, as well. Mr. Buttermann frequently guest conducts many of the country's preeminent ensembles, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony. Michael's work has been featured in over two dozen nationwide broadcasts on public radio's Performance Today. He can be heard on two CDs on the Newport Classics label and on a disc on which he conducts the Rochester Philharmonic and collaborates with actor John Lithgow.

michaelbuttermannconductor.com

Visit www.CubaRhythmAndViews.com for info, reservations, video and FAQs

CUBA
Rhythm and Views

Neil Birnbaum

WHY CHOOSE CUBA RHYTHM AND VIEWS?

This trip is different from all the others. Our delegations uniquely blend full legal compliance with all US Government requirements with distinctive and insightful experiences in exclusive and intimate performance spaces not generally accessible to Americans. This trip includes the finest hotel and private restaurants (*paladares*), in addition to offering up close and personal experiences with Cuba's most revered musicians, dancers, visual artists, and social activists. Our group size is limited to ensure that your experience is unique and memorable.

This is the only legal trip to Cuba designed for passionate lovers of music, dance and the visual arts and Cuba has some of the best in the world. CR&V has taken hundreds of people to Cuba since 2013 and their testimonials speak for themselves.

Your host, veteran musician and symphony orchestra executive Neil Birnbaum, has more than thirty-five years of experience producing the world's finest music and artists. Since 2011, Neil has been exploring Cuba's creative arts, curating major cultural exchanges, and building cultural bridges that help support the Cuban people.

CR&V is dedicated to offering the highest attainable artistic excellence and a truly distinctive experience. Delegates will be exposed to Cuba's world-renowned jazz and nightlife along with performances of classical dance and music. We will meet with individual artists of all genres as well as representatives of private performing arts organizations to strengthen civil society in Cuba. From grand theaters to intimate salons, travelers will have access to some of Cuba's most revered musicians and artists. The authentic Cuba will always reveal itself to the insightful and inquiring mind. The result is a cultural exploration that has become the benchmark for legal travel to this remarkable and isolated nation.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

IMMERSE yourself in intimate and private performances and experiences curated exclusively for your delegation.

STROLL the 500 year-old streets and historic plazas of Old Havana and be inspired by the resilience of the Cuban people.

DISCOVER the authentic history of US/Cuban relations and foreign policy from political experts and former diplomats.

DINE in Havana's internationally-celebrated *paladares* and taste the success of Cuba's only private sector experiment.

EMBRACE the infectious vibrancy of nightlife of Havana's clubs and cafes.

LISTEN to the Afro-Cuban beat of the Cuban culture everywhere you go.

UNDERSTAND why CR&V's arts and culture exchange programs are so critical to the future of US/Cuban political dialogue.

MINGLE with the performers, academics and artists at special post-concert receptions and private dinners.

ENJOY a walk along the historic Malecón seawall just steps away from your hotel.

Iberostar Marqués de la Torre

Get a start on daily life in Havana from this 5-star hotel, boasting 360° panoramic city views and just steps away from everything: the historic center, iconic monuments, captivating museums, traditional restaurants, emblematic bars and classic vintage cars. After a busy day in Havana, this is the place to relax, have a cold drink, check your email with available Wi-Fi and be inspired by Havana coming to life after dark.



Michael Buttermann Returns to Conduct Havana Chamber Orchestra

The enduring artistic relationship between American conductor Michael Buttermann and the esteemed Havana Chamber Orchestra is set to flourish once more with his eagerly awaited return to Cuba in April 2026. This forthcoming engagement marks Buttermann's fourth appearance with the celebrated Cuban ensemble, a testament to a connection that has deepened and evolved since his initial, impactful visit in February 2023.

His debut in Cuba proved to be a transformative experience. From the very first rehearsal, a special synergy emerged, with Buttermann inspiring the orchestra to new levels of performance, encouraging them to transcend their limitations and embrace musical risks. The enthusiastic reception from both the audience and the musicians themselves led to subsequent invitations for encore appearances in 2024 and 2025.

Now, the anticipation for his 2026 engagement centers not only on the promise of exceptional music-making but also on the profound artistic understanding that has developed over these years of collaboration. This continued partnership signifies a remarkable cultural exchange and underscores the power of music to transcend boundaries and build lasting relationships.

Don't miss this opportunity to witness the next chapter in this meaningful and evolving artistic journey.

Classical Music and Dance

In Cuba the classical arts are revered by every walk of life. During this trip patrons will experience performances by such renowned groups as Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Ballet Español de Cuba, Ballet Lizt Alfonso, Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, Orquesta de Cámara de La Habana and much more. Events will include opportunities to attend private rehearsals as well as performances and mingle with the performers in intimate settings.

Traditional Cuban Music

Traditional music and its evolution over the centuries is at the heart of the Cuban soul and mystique. The history of Cuban music is the story of its people—from slavery, political upheaval, revolt and a joyful celebration of Cuban cultural life.



Danza Contemporánea de Cuba



Ballet Lizt Alfonso



Orquesta de Cámara de La Habana



Ballet Español de Cuba



Orquesta de Cámara de La Habana

Arts Education

Cuba is committed to arts education from primary school to the university level. The flourishing music, dance and arts scene provides a solid foundation in the training students receive at the prestigious arts schools throughout the country. To see firsthand how artists and musicians are cultivated, we will visit both Conservatorio Amadeo Roldán and Ballet Litz Alfonso where you will experience Cuba's arts education system with private performances by students. In addition, you will have the opportunity to communicate with the students and their teachers in a round table discussion that will enlighten you on Cuba's robust arts education.

Cuban Jazz and Nightlife

In Havana, jazz thrives. Our patrons are not only immersed into Havana's jazz nightlife, but will be treated to private, one-on-one concerts from the best and brightest of Cuba's jazz elite, including pianist Aldo López-Gavilán. This unique exposure to one of the world's most active jazz scenes is a CR&V exclusive. You will better understand the day-to-day sacrifices as well as the financial and artistic challenges, including the difficulty of buying and maintaining instruments in Cuba.

Architecture and Historic Preservation

Some of the most exquisite historic buildings in the Caribbean are in Cuba. Havana celebrated its 500th anniversary in 2019. Despite 60+ years of embargo, Cuba has managed to preserve and restore some of its most important heritage structures, neighborhoods and monuments. Using tourist dollars and financial incentives, much of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is gradually being rehabilitated to its former beauty. Our patrons will gain an insight into what it takes to gradually restore one of the New World's great cities, one building at a time.



Ballet Litz Alfonso



Aldo López-Gavilán



Grupo WOW



Conservatorio Amadeo Roldán



Visual Arts

As part of our cultural exchange, our patrons will visit notable Cuban artists' studios, galleries and homes. They will discuss their work and their artistic visions and the state of Cuba's control of artistic expression. These personal encounters will help you understand cultural life in Cuba before the Revolution as well as today. Artwork will be for sale at all studios and galleries.

Cuban Cuisine and *Paladares*

The growing movement of private restaurants, or *paladares*, in family homes is flourishing in Havana. This movement is at the vanguard of economic change and private ownership in Cuba. The best dining in Cuba is in *paladares* along the backstreets and alleyways of Old and New Havana. The restaurants are being reviewed internationally and Havanaphiles are slowly finding their way to these wonderful free enterprise culinary destinations. All of our meals other than breakfast, will be in *paladares*. And, for the meals not included in the package, you will be given the names and locations of Havana's best private restaurants, all within walking distance from the Iberostar Marqués de la Torre.

Additional Activities In Support of the Cuban People

Meet with career Cuban diplomat Camilo García López-Trigo for a talk about US/Cuban relations. Dr. García is a professor at University of Havana International Relations School and an expert in US political studies. You will also visit a day care center run by The Sisters of the Love of God, see a classroom in session, learn about the remarkable work the sisters do for families in need and be inspired by the humanitarian work of their order.



Camilo García López-Trigo

Don't take our word for it! Here's what people said about our recent trip:

"A quick note to thank you for the most amazing trip of my life... the Cuban people have a great soul and an exuberant spirit which we experienced in their art and music and the wonderful small moments with them. Cuba is now in my heart."

—Geri F, New York, NY

"Those four days were filled with a wonderland of beautiful music, art, delicious food, and a welcoming vibe from everyone we met. We came for the music, but were treated to everything else beyond our dream."

—Natalie V and Richard L, Lake Worth, FL

"I cannot tell you enough how incredible the trip was. I am using the word 'transformational' with sincerity. The experiences continue to flood my brain...you put together an amazing trip for us."

—Susan O, Boulder, CO

"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. We have been on many 'tours' to other countries but have never experienced anything as moving and beautiful as this."

—Thomas and Sally K, Tempe, AZ

"It would not be an exaggeration to say that our week in Cuba was life-changing. Although we had been to Cuba before, this visit provided an opportunity to experience the country's culture, food, history, vibrant music and artist community, and to meet some incredible people in a way that would be impossible otherwise. One of the highlights was observing Emmet Cohen and his trio give a masterclass to a school band. We are so grateful we had the chance to see Cuba with CR&V and would highly recommend them."

—Kim S and Ross M, Halifax, NS

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