



About the Band...

Nelson Bello

Latin Jazz Quintet

Nelson Bello (Congas and Leader) - Conguero and Hartford native Nelson Bello is an all-around Latin percussionist who performs frequently with bands throughout Connecticut, New York City, Boston and in Puerto Rico. As a teenager Bello performed in Cuba with the band Insight. He studied at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, the Hartford Conservatory and under Jackie McLean at The Artists Collective. In addition to live performances and recording sessions, Nelson is a dedicated advocate for arts education and has served on the steering committee for Make Music Hartford, sponsored by the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

Marcos Torres (Drums) - A versatile percussionist, producer, and Grammy Award-Winning engineer, Marcos has been at the forefront of creating a fresh new sound within the Salsa genre for over a decade. Born into a musical family of Puerto Rican and Mexican heritage, Marcos was gifted a bongo at the age of three, and never looked back. He has since turned into one of his generation's most respected and sought after percussionists, performing with salsa superstars La India, Tito Nieves, Ismael Miranda, Jerry Rivera, Obie Bermudez, and the legendary Issac Delgado among many others. He is currently working out of New York City in varied roles as a percussionist, producer and engineer with rising artists from across Latin America. You can also catch his hours of intimate bongo instruction on the Congachops.com platform.

Felipe Fournier (Vibraphone) - Born in Costa Rica, vibist/percussionist and composer Fournier graduated from the Puerto Rico Music Conservatory, concentrating in Jazz and Caribbean Music. Felipe is a Latin Grammy winner as the producer of Mariachi Flor de Toloache's "Las Caras Lindas", awarded Best Ranchero Music Album in 2017. He has been nominated previously for a Latin Grammy with Charlie Sepúlveda & The Turnaround; and nominated for a Grammy with Nestor Torres; and Ruben Blades & Cheo Feliciano on his latest album, "Eba Say Aja." Based in NYC since 2013, Felipe is the MD of "Supermambo! A Vibes Tribute to Tito Puente," Luba Mason's MIXTURA, A Mexican Affair, and Ballet Nepantla, among others. He also plays as a sideman with Miguel Zenon's SUR, Luisito Quintero's 3rd Element, Guillermo Klein, Jaranta Beat, Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra, Axel Laugart, and Tres del Solar.

Alex Ayala (Bass) - Born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, Bassist/Composer Alex Ayala is one of the most promising Musicians on the Scene. He studied in "Escuela Libre de Musica" and "Conservatorio de Musica Puerto Rico" where he studied with legendary bassist Eddie Gomez and and performed with saxophonist David Sanchez. Recognized for his ability to play in the Latin/Tropical Music genre, Ayala is a first call bassist for notable artists such as Gilberto Santa Rosa, Victor Manuelle, Puerto Rican Power, Tito Nieves, Tony Vega, and a host of others. Ayala has also recorded with Jose Lugo "Guasabara" (Grammy Award Nominee), Nestor Torres "Nouveau Latino" (Grammy Award Nominee), Gilberto Santa Rosa "Irrepetible" (Grammy Award Winner), and Paoli Mejias "De Jazzambia a Mi Tambor-El Concierto." He has appeared in premier venues such as Madison Square Garden, Greek Theater, Staples Center, Coliseo de Puerto Rico, Luis.A.Ferré Center for the Performing Arts (Puerto Rico), House of Blues, Feria de Cali, Dia Nacional de la Salsa (Puerto Rico), American Airlines Arena, and at numerous festivals and concerts in North America, South America, and Europe.

Hommy Ramos (Trombone) - A native of Puerto Rico, Hommy Ramos is an in demand trombonist and educator currently based in New York City. He studied at Berklee College of Music and holds a Masters Degree from Queens College. As an educator, he has taught at Conservatorio de Musica de Puerto Rico and is currently a Teaching Artist at The New York Pops. He is the Founder and Musical Director of the Latin ensemble Trombeatz and is featured as a sideman on numerous recordings.