

## **Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet**

The **Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet** is the *crème de la crème* of musical talent that has emerged from the San Francisco Bay Area. Each member of this quintet possesses infinite creativity and extensive experience in ensemble play. In one form or another, these artists have either performed, toured or recorded together for more than 15 years.

Wayne Wallace, who created the Patois label, is a self-described “closet ethnomusicologist.” His compositions, arrangements and interpretations convey a diversified tonal and rhythmic palette of which his colleagues joyously communicate with one another. This intimate interplay is evident on their most recent recording on the Patois Records label aptly titled “¡BIEN BIEN!” which has garnered an impressive 4½ stars (out of 5) from Downbeat Magazine in the Jan. 2010 issue.

The 2009 Stanford Jazz Festival program promoted the July performance by saying, “*San Francisco native Wayne Wallace is practically a one-man ecosystem of jazz. He is a phenomenal trombonist, composer, arranger, bandleader, educator, producer, and head of his own record label. Pursuing each of these endeavors with unparalleled passion, imagination, and artistry, Wayne has become a towering figure in the Bay Area jazz scene.*”

Each member of the **Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet** holds a well-deserved reputation for skill, knowledge, professionalism, and individual accomplishments in the Latin Jazz arena. Together they create a tight-knit quintet that holds an intelligent, creative musical dialogue while honoring the indigenous musical traditions. In their live performances, they respect the key role of the audience in the art of music making.

**Wayne Wallace** (Trombone, Musical Director) Wayne was born and raised in San Francisco, California. His formal training includes his studies as a performance major at San Francisco State University and La Escuela Nacional de Las Artes in Havana Cuba. Wayne currently teaches at San Jose State University and at the Jazzschool in Berkeley.

As a composer/arranger, Wayne has contributed to numerous recordings, television, movie soundtracks and musical theater. A sampling of his recording and performing credits include Angela Bofill, Con-Funk-Shun, Earth, Wind and Fire, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Count Basie, Ray Charles, Joe Henderson, Celine Dion, Carlos Santana, Lionel Hampton Sonny Rollins, Pearl Bailey, Tito Puente, Lena Horne, Pete Escovedo, Stevie Wonder, John Lee Hooker, Earl "Fatha" Hines, and cellist Joan Jeanrenaud of the Kronos String Quartet. Known to many as "*The Doctor*" for his arranging and production skills, he is also a lauded composer who received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for jazz composition. His independent label, Patois Records, has released critically acclaimed CDs by all of its artists.

**David Belove** (Bass) David is a Kansas City native who moved to San Francisco in 1973. He has recorded, performed or toured with Pete and Sheila Escovedo, Tito Puente, John Santos and the Machete Ensemble, Rebeca Mauleón, Francisco Aguabella, Jovino Santos Neto, Edgardo Cambon y Candela, Rolando Morales, Ray Obiedo, and Homenagem Brasileira. David also plays with The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir who has garnered

three Grammy Awards. David also worked with renowned Jazz artists including Joe Henderson, Blue Mitchell, Eddie Harris, Max Roach, Dizzy Gillespie, Larry Coryell, Louis Bellson, Danilo Perez, Mark Levine, Mark Murphy and Pat Metheny. David teaches bass at The Jazzschool in Berkeley, CA, Jazz Camp West, SF Jazz's "Jazz In the Middle" program, and he is an adjunct faculty member at Mills College in Oakland, CA.

**Murray Low** (Piano) Murray is a veteran pianist of the Bay Area jazz scene, and has been playing, composing, arranging, recording and teaching professionally for over thirty years. His fluency in all forms of jazz and its blending with other idioms has led to a multi-faceted career spanning a wide variety of musical contexts.

Murray is perhaps best known for his contributions to Latin Jazz, Salsa and Afro-Cuban musical landscape. In his twenty-two years of involvement, he has established himself as one of the premier pianists in that genre. He was honored with a nomination as 2008 Pianist of the Year by the Latin Jazz Corner and for a Grammy in 2004 for his association with the Machete Ensemble. He is or has been the regular pianist/collaborator with several top Bay Area ensembles including John Calloway's Diaspora, Jesus Diaz y su QBA, Pete Escovedo Orchestra, and John Santos' Machete Ensemble. He has also collaborated with Latin Jazz giants Ray Vega, Tito Puente, Poncho Sanchez, Nestor Torres, and Andrea Brachfeld. In 2008, he performed with famous Cuban flautist Orlando Valle at the Monterey Jazz Festival as part of a commissioned project including Jon Benitez, David Sanchez, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, and Giovanni Hidalgo.

Murray holds faculty positions at both the University of California, Santa Cruz and at Stanford University where he is the director of The Stanford Latin Jazz Ensemble, formed in 2008. Currently, this project was awarded a prestigious grant from Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts (SiCa) for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Michael Spiro** (conga and percussion) Michael is an internationally recognized percussionist, recording artist, and educator, known specifically for his work in the Latin music field. He has performed on thousands of records, co-produced and played on several instructional videos for Warner Bros. Publications (including Talking Drums, Changuito, Giovanni Hidalgo, and Ignacio Berroa), and produced seminal recordings in the Latin music genre, including Orquesta Batachanga, Grupo Bata Ketu, Mark Levine and the Latin Tinge, and Grupo Ilu-Aña.

Michael's recording and performing credits include such diverse artists as David Byrne, Cachao, The Caribbean Jazz Project, Dori Caymmi, Changuito, Richard Egues, Frank Emilio Flynn, Ella Fitzgerald, David Garibaldi, Gilberto Gil, Giovanni Hidalgo, Ray Holman, Toninho Horta, Bobby Hutcherson, Dr. John, Mark Levine and the Latin Tinge, Machete Ensemble, Bobby McFerrin, Andy Narell, Ray Obiedo, Chico O'Farrill, Eddie Palmieri, Lazaro Ros, David Rudder, Carlos Santana, Grace Slick, Omar Sosa, Talking Drums, Clark Terry, McCoy Tyner and Charlie Watts. In addition, he has recorded soundtracks to several major motion pictures and wrote several arrangements for the Tony Award winning Broadway show, BLAST!

Michael is a frequent visiting artist at universities worldwide. He earned his Bachelors degree in Latin American Studies from U.C. Santa Cruz and has done graduate work at the University of Washington in Ethnomusicology. In addition to the position he held in the Jazz Department at the University of California, Berkeley, he has taught at numerous colleges throughout North America and Europe, and has presented at national and statewide conventions of P.A.S. (The Percussive Arts Society) and the I.A.J.E. (International Association of Jazz Educators). Michael is currently a Professor of Music in the Percussion Department at the renowned Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University in Bloomington.

**Colin Douglas** (Trap drums) Colin Douglas began playing music at the young age of eleven years old. Born into a musical family, he experimented with many different instruments as a child but soon was drawn to drums and percussion. As a student he was exposed to many diverse styles studying everything from classical percussion, to rock, jazz and funk. Douglas eventually attended both the acclaimed Lawrence University Conservatory of Music as well as the Manhattan School of Music. After college he became deeply interested in afro-cuban music and after moving to the San Francisco bay area began an extensive of Cuban folkloric percussion with esteemed instructor Michael Spiro, as well as many other master Cuban teachers. As a professional drumset artist and percussionist Mr. Douglas has performed and recorded with an extensive list of diverse artists such as the Wayne Wallace Quintet, Jesus Diaz y su Qba, Chuchito Valdez, Donna Summer, Slash, Enrique Bunbury, Eddie Palmieri, and many others.

Wayne's larger group ensemble "**Rhythm and Rhyme**" serves nicely as a vehicle for him to write arrangements for strings or brass sections, so it comes from a completely different viewpoint. The **Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet** (which is the core of **Rhythm and Rhyme**) finds Michael Spiro and Murray Low placed slightly further upstage and musically taking more melodic avenues in addition to keeping time. The quintet has the ability to have more interesting conversations using the available sonic space that a large group wouldn't ordinarily have.

The career paths of these five musicians have crossed countless times in the past thirty years. Their experiences stem from the San Francisco music scene, but also from Latin American and Cuba. Raul da Gama from the Latin Jazz Network writes, "With clave in his soul, trombonist Wayne Wallace proves yet again on his record *Bien Bien!* that the cheer of the music is truly infectious. Wallace is rare among musicians who can "swing" as well as he can "clave."

So it seems only natural that Wayne Wallace has pulled together this stellar ensemble to create the **Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet**.