

Lucas van Merwijk's

CUBOP CITY BIG BAND



Latin bigband power and class since 1995

The CUBOP CITY BIG BAND

has been at the forefront of the international salsa en latin jazz scene for many years.

The orchestra was founded in 1995 by Lucas van Merwijk and was named after the New York club 'Cubop City', the stage where in the years 40-50 giants such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Machito and Chano Pozo would be perform and 'invent' Cubop.

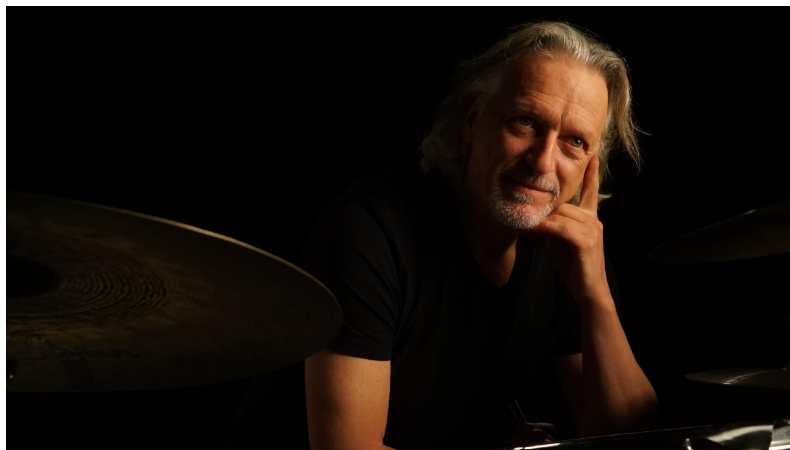
The band currently has 8 cd's to its name that include music by Machito (the Machito Project) Beny Moré (Moré and More), Arsenio Rodriguez (Arsenio), Tito Puente, Grupo AfroCuba (Que Sensacion!) and Earth Wind & Fire.

Besides Dutch musicians, the twenty-piece big band includes players from Puerto Rico, Panama, Germany, the USA and Venezuela and has collaborated with a respectable number of stars from the Latin scene including: Alfredo 'Chocolate' Armenteros, Edy Martinez, bass player Andy Gonzalez (Libre, Tito Puente), Armando Peraza (Carlos Santana), Luis Conte, Nelson Gonzales (Cachao, Gloria Estefan), Paul Simon), Edmar Castañeda and Roberto Quintero.

Press & Quotes

- SALSA POWER Cubop has taken the big band sound to a new level
- LATIN BEAT 'a must for Latin big band fanatics that, in my humble opinion, will have you dancing with joy.'
- JOSE RIZO 'Utilizing the expertise of the veteran arranger and pianist Eddy Martínez, who did the outstanding arrangements, Van Merwijk was able to capture that Latin big band sound and spirit. This swings from beginning to end.'

Director **Lucas van Merwijk**



Jazzprofiles.com: 'Lucas van Merwijk is one of the great drummers of our time.

He lays down so much good stuff that even the eyes of a trained drummer can't catch it all...'

Drummer Lucas van Merwijk has been at the forefront of the European Jazz, Latin and percussion scene for since 1985.

He was elected 'Best Jazz Drummer' and 'Best Fusion Drummer' in the Benelux countries by the readers of dutch drum magazine *De Slagwerkkraant* many years running between 1993 and 2015. Van Merwijk has been staff teacher for drums and percussion at both the World Music department of the Rotterdam Codarts conservatory as well as the Jazz department of the Amsterdam Conservatory since 1986.

In 2010 Lucas wins the Global Act Award 2010, for remaining continuously

successful as a leading international Artist in world music, over a long period of time. In 2013 he publishes his drum book *World Beat, world rhythms for drum set*.

Music Streaming link

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/11G65LxykhXdf9tGhoyuns>

Video streaming link

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhX6Pqqy1Ek>
 2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rn2JYB-qml>
 3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laxBXCgd6wk>
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NEW ALBUM

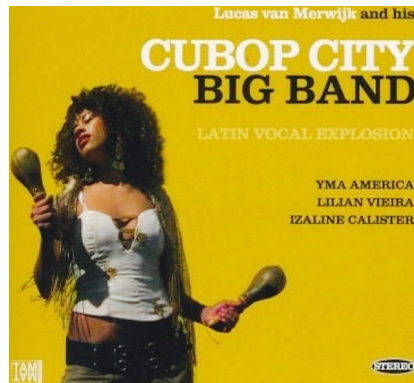
STAR *Earth Wind & Fire LATINO*



New and original Salsa and Latin Jazz adaptations and Spanish lyrics. Big band versions of EW&F's classics such as: Can't Hide Love, In The Stone, Fantasy, September, Star, Sing a Song, Getaway, Saturday Nite, Boogie Wonderland Arranged by Grammy Award Winner **Oscar Hernandez (Spanish Harlem**

Orchestra), Marc Bischoff and Ilja Reijngoud (Thelonious Monk Award)
Spanish lyrics by Yma America, Andrea Canta and Alberto Caicedo

Cubop City album overview





Cubop City Big Band | Historical Overview

- 1995 CD recording 'the Machito Project' CUBOP CITY BIG BAND
- 1996 Cubop City Big Band tour with Chocolate Armenteros
- 1996 North Sea Jazz festival Cubop City Big Band
- 1997 Cubop City Big Band recording 'Moré and More'
- 1997 Concerts Cubop City Big Band with Edy Martinez

- 1998 Tour Dutch Antilles with the Cubop City Big Band
- 1998 nr 2 Best Latin Album in Latin Beat Magazine
- 1999 Album 'Live in the Hague' Cubop City Big Band on Tam Tam Records
- 1999 'Mission Impossible' Tour Bonaire, Sint Maarten, Curaçao & Aruba
- 2000 Concert with Luis Conte, Raul Rekov, Armando Peraza.
- 2001 Cubop City Big Band Torres y Salsa festival France
- 2002 Cubop City Big Band cd 'Arsenio' on Tam Tam Records
- 2002 Cubop City Big Band concerts with tresséro Nelson Gonzales
- 2003 North Sea Jazz festival Cubop City Big Band
- 2004 Cubop City Big Band Theatre Tour 'The Mambo Kings' with Bob Fosko
- 2005 Theatre tour Cubop City Big Band 'Tribute to Afro Cuba' 10 year anniversary with Leonardo Amuedo
- 2005 Theatre tour Cubop City Big Band 'Latin Vocal Explosion' with Izaline Calister & Lilian Vieira
- 2006 Caribbean tour Cubop City Big Band to Bonaire & Curaçao
- 2006 North Sea Jazz festival Cubop City Big Band
- 2006 Live album 'Latin Vocal Explosion' with Izaline Calister & Lilian Vieira
- 2007 Tour to Colombia, Surinam, Curaçao, Aruba
- 2008 Tribute to Tito Puente with Andy Gonzalez
- 2010 Album release Que Sensación!
- 2010 Otro Mundo Musica Venezolana with Roberto Quintero
- 2011 Otro Mundo Colombia with Edmar Castañeda
- 2012 Otro Mundo 'Uruguay' met Beatriz Aguiar, José Lopretti, José Perez
- 2013 Cubop City Big band Concerts Dias Latinos
- 2014 Kingdom Concert King Willem Alexander
- 2015 Earth Wind & Fire Latino Concert tour
- 2016 Star Earth Wind & Fire Album Release
- 2017 Star Earth Wind & Fire Concert tour
- 2018 Star Earth Wind & Fire Concert tour



Line Up

- Drums & Timbales: Lucas van Merwijk
- Lead Vocals: Yma America (Venezuela)
- Lead Vocals: Alberto Caicedo (Colombia)
- Bongo: Marco Toro (Venezuela)
- Conga: Juan Bulu Vilorio (Venezuela)
- Piano: Marc Bischoff (Germany)
- Baby Bass & Electric Bass: Samuel Ruiz (Venezuela)

- Trumpet: Loet van der Lee (Netherlands)
- Trumpet: Rik Mol (Netherlands)
- Trumpet: Joe Rivera (USA)
- Trumpet: Charlie Biggs (USA)
- Trombone: David Rothschild (USA)
- Trombone: Ilja Reijngoud (Netherlands)
- Trombone: Frans Cornelissen (Netherlands)
- Bass Trombone: Martin van den Berg (Netherlands)
- Alto Sax: Rolf Delfos (Netherlands)
- Alto Sax: Milan Bongers (Netherlands)
- Tenor Sax: Cyrille Oswald (Netherlands)
- Tenor Sax: Wouter Schueler (Netherlands)
- Baritone Sax & Flute: Gerrit Jan Binkhorst (Netherlands)

Music Streaming link

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/11G65LxykhXdf9tGhoyuns>

Video streaming link

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhX6Pqqy1Ek>
 2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rn2JYB-qml>
 3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laxBXCgd6wk>
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Projects for theatre

- The Mambo Kings Theatre Tour
 - Latin Guitar Explosion
 - Tribute To Afro Cuba Concert Tour
 - Latin Diva's Theatre Tour
 - Latin Vocal Explosion Theatre Tour
 - Tribute to Tito Puente'
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Musical Theme Project Otro Mundo

- Otro Mundo Musica Venezolana with Roberto Quintero 2010
 - Otro Mundo Colombia with Edmar Castañeda 2011
 - Otro Mundo 'Uruguay' met Beatriz Aguiar, José Lopretti, José Perez 2012
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Reviews

- **Sonny Bravo** New York (arranger/ piano player for Tito Puente for many years: '...as I'm listening, the track that almost knocked me off my chair was: "A Puerto Padre!" Wow! Kudos to Marc for taking it where no man has gone before, not even J.M. Ceruto! Great piano solo, too! A well deserved tip-of-the-hat to a great aggregation, which you have indeed done and done it very well! I think the CD is terrific, incl. the charts, the "adaptations," and the solos!

- **Marty Sheller** New York (legendary NY arranger) '...a superb job. Terrific arrangements, excellent execution and wonderful musicianship all around. It's a breath of fresh air in a Latin Jazz scene saturated with mediocre music. Keep up the good work. Palante!'

- **Latin Beat New York** THE CUBOP CITY BIG BAND; ¿Qué Sensación! (Tam Tam Records) The Dutch drummer/percussionist Lucas Van Merwijk (member of the popular international Latin jazz band Nueva Manteca) is proud to release this new production as leader of a mega-ensemble, The Cubop City Big Band. Originally established by Lucas in 1995, this 20-piece salsa/Latin jazz big band from the Netherlands swings with the best in the world of Latin music. Comprised of international players from all over the world, The Cubop-City Big Band has hosted multiple Latin jazz luminaries, including Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros, Edy Martínez, Andy González, Armando Peraza, Karl Perazzo, Raúl Rekow, Nelson González and Luis Conte. Their new recording is a big band tribute to some of the icons of Afro-Cuban jazz, starting with Grupo Afrocuba (a leading force in the 1980s and one of Lucas' major inspirations for this production). In fact, Lucas selected three of Afrocuba's compositions: ¿Qué Sensación!, Sí Preguntan Por Mi, and Ya Puede Empezar la Dicha de Los Dos. The late Emiliano Salvador (legendary pianist/composer) is remembered via his compositions Para Luego Es Tarde and A Puerto Padre, while master-reedman Paquito D'Rivera is honored through an original score titled Pa'Quito (written in Paquito's style by the band's pianist and arranger Marc Bischoff). This recording delivers an amazing big band sound and intriguing arrangements, as well as creative solos generating inspirational Latin jazz. — Rudy Mangual



- **Descarga** (New York) LUCAS VAN MERWIJK AND HIS CUBOP CITY BIG BAND Arsenio (CD Tam Tam) Category: LATIN JAZZ; BIG BAND LATIN JAZZ; NETHERLANDS ***** Editors Pick: With a cast that includes guest tresero Nelson Gonzalez and the compositional talents of pianist Edy Martinez, Netherlander Lucas Van

Merwijk and his twenty member Cubop City Big Band have produced quite a special tribute to the legendary Cuban bandleader and composer Arsenio Rodriguez. The project opens with an over 10 minute sizzling medley -- a terrific dance-club ready Arsenio primer. To keep the groove going, Mr. Merwijk wisely chose "La Cartera" as the second track. The dancers won't be

able to stop. Singer Yma America does a superb job, especially on the explosive "Mulata Rumbera," one of the bests tracks on the disk. Van Merwijk's timbale chops took the opportunity to shine. Special note must also be made of the four part "Baila Simbale Suite," the percussive jazz overture structured by Mr. Martinez. The prognoses: The big band sound is, indeed, alive and well. Highly recommended. (BP)

REVIEWS

• **SALSA POWER** (USA) Cubop City with another tribute effort, this time tackling the music of Arsenio Rodríguez. Just like their past tributes (Machito, Beny Moré) this one does not disappoint. For those who had followed Arsenio's career you'll find it ironic that a man who revolutionized the conjunto sound, is getting a tribute by a big band. "La cartera" gets a riveting arrangement (as the entire CD) by Colombia's own Edy Martínez. He gives the piece a bigger than life sound with the powerhouse vocals by Miguel Montenegro. This starts the CD out with a smoking opening.

While the musical arrangements and the band are in top form, the vocals of Yma América carry this release to glory. With a style similar to Graciela from Machito's fame, Yma gives this production power and class. She kicks in the door with "Mulence" and what a show stopper it is. Going note for note with the band, you wish every recording were done with such fire. Another interesting piece here is the four-part suite based on Arsenio's "Baila Simbale"



with new parts by Edy Martínez. This excursion is a vivid Afro-Cuban jazz showcase with Lucas Van Merwijk demonstrating his percussion skills, while the thirteen-piece horn section wants to rip through your speakers. With this tribute, Cubop has taken the big band sound to a new level and I'm wondering how they are going to top this. Maybe a live CD? I'm not sure how many folks will hear this beautiful re-release but if you don't, shame on you! This is what it sounds like when real musicians play.

For info please contact: Roosje den Hertog Tam Tam Productions /
Nieuwstraat 12 / 3743 BL / Baarn / The Netherlands

[Tour Dates](#)

Phone: Office +31 (0) 35 5262482 • Mob Roosje den Hertog +31 (0) 6
39559283 • Mob Lucas van Merwijk +31 (0) 6 55751648 • Skype
lucasvanmerwijk

Email: lucasvanmerwijk@me.com • tamtamoffice@me.com • roosjedenhertog@me.com

Web: www.tamtamproductions.com • www.vmmm.nl • www.lucasvanmerwijk.com • www.drumsunited.com

