

MISTA SAVONA PRESENTS

HAVANA MEETS KINGSTON

PART 2

TOMA 2





UNITING THE MUSIC OF CUBA & JAMAICA

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES . . .

Two islands within a hundred miles of each other - so close, and at the same time so far. I first travelled to Cuba in 2014, and on the last day I was in *El Chanchullero* in Old Havana drinking coffee and daydreaming . . . imagining the sounds of Rumba mixed with Nyabinghi, the spiritual & folkloric styles unique to each island. Little did I know that this musical meeting had never occurred before, and little did I know that a year later I would be flying Jamaican legends Sly & Robbie, Bopee & Bongo Herman into Havana to work with Cuba's very best musicians - to bring that dream alive. It felt like a project that wanted to be born, and I was the one lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time.

We recorded for ten days in Havana, and the music was sublime. Midway through the recording sessions, the great bass player Robbie Shakespeare turned to me and said: 'So when do we take this band on tour?' It was like a train had struck! Inexplicably, after all the months of careful planning to bring together these legendary musicians, I had never even conceived that one day we could tour this group of musicians together. And tour we did! The first 'Havana Meets Kingston' LP was released in 2017, and by 2018 we had performed two world tours, culminating in an incendiary show for the BBC Proms at The Royal Albert Hall in the summer of 2018.

It wasn't long before I was back in the Caribbean, to start work on this very special second album. Much of this record was also recorded at the famous Egrem Studio (*Estudios Areito 101*) in Havana, where the equipment and atmosphere has remained unchanged since the 1950s. This is the very same studio in which the famous *Buena Vista Social Club* album was recorded in 1996, and our albums share that unique sonic character and warm, woody room sound that Egrem is famous for. The Cubans told me an angel lives in the studio and that she blesses the music recorded there - and I believe it! Other studios we recorded at include Nelson's Studio in Vedado, and Bob Marley's Tuff Gong studio in Kingston, Jamaica.

This album - like the first instalment - simmers with an energy, warmth & sincerity that seems increasingly hard to find in this digital day & age. It was an honour to be there and an honour to bring this project to life again - continuing a very special journey!

The booklet you hold in your hand is full of photos from the sessions and streets of Jamaica and Cuba, as well as some beautiful photos from our world tours, including Europe, UK and Australia.

This music is for the people of Cuba and Jamaica, and a gift to the music lovers of the world. We hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Viva Cuba!

Gwaan Jamaica!

Jake Savona









To Robbie Shakespeare Legend isn't a big enough word for you. The Don of the Jamaican bassline, the heaviest bass sound in history. A million thanks for coming to Cuba with us and believing in the music - we will never forget the experience. Rest In Power. BLESS

To Bopee. We love you so much. You were like a father to us all. This album is dedicated to your memory, and each and every beautiful guitar moment on this record reminds us of your warm musicianship & friendship. Rest In Power. ONE LOVE

To Jacinto Herrera. Friend, Musician, Percussionist, High Priest. You blessed this project and made it possible. You opened all the doors for us in Havana & beyond. Your wise words and deep insights will never be forgotten. You were and are a true master of Life. Gran Amigo Jacinto!! Thank you for everything. Ache Iboru Y Palante Amen.













HAVANA MEETS KINGSTON - PART 2

01. THE FIRE FROM AFRICA feat. Micah Shemaiah, PuchoMan, The Gideon & Anyilena

(M.Shemaiah / R. Pujals / A.Nunes / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Robbie Shakespeare** Guitars: **Winston 'Bopee' Bowen** Kette Drum: **Bongo Herman** Nyabinghi Percussion: **Bongo Herman, Shaun 'Bugzy' Anderson & Junior Bongo** Congas: **Yaroldy Abreu** Mixed Cuban Percussion: **Oliver Valdés & Vince Vella** Piano: **Jake Savona** Backup Vocals: **Francisco 'Solis' Robert, Julito Padrón, Ricardo Casamayor Pujals, Aristey Guibert Tejada & Anyilena Perera**

02. SIEMPRE SI feat. Randy Valentine, Brenda Navarrete & Dayán Carrera Fernández

(B.Guzman / R. Fritz / D. Fernández / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums & FX: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Chris Meredith** Additional Bass (Rumba Section): **Gaston Joya** Guitars: **Earl 'Chinna' Smith & Baz Turnbull** Piano: **Jake Savona** Additional Piano (Rumba Section): **Rolando Luna** Tambourine: **Bongo Herman** Congas: **Yaroldy Abreu & Brenda Navarrete** Mixed Cuban Percussion: **Oliver Valdés** Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Backup Vocals: **Dayán Carrera Fernández, Brenda Navarrete & Francisco 'Solis' Robert**

03. GUARACHARÁ feat. Dayán Carrera Fernández

(D. Fernández / J.Savona)

Drums: **Rodney Barreto** Additional Drums: **Oliver Valdés** Bass: **Gaston Joya** Flamenco Guitars: **Raynier González** Acoustic Guitar: **Francisco 'Solis' Robert** Piano: **Rolando Luna** Cajón & Congas: **Yaroldy Abreu** Mixed Cuban Percussion: **Oliver Valdés** Shakers & Claps: **Juan Carlos Otero** Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Trumpets: **Julito Padrón & Lazaro Ernesto Numa Pompa** Backup Vocals: **Dayán Carrera Fernández, Brenda Navarrete, Julito Padrón & Francisco 'Solis' Robert**

04. THE HUMAN CHAIN feat. Clinton Fearon

(C.Fearon / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Robbie Shakespeare** Guitars: **Winston 'Bopee' Bowen** Percussion: **Bongo Herman, Shaun 'Bugzy' Anderson & Yaroldy Abreu** Piano: **Jake Savona** Trumpet: **Julito Padrón**

05. SOLUTIONS (WE CAN DO IT) feat. Stevie Culture

(S.Jones / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Robbie Shakespeare** Guitars: **Baz Turnbull** Percussion: **Bongo Herman** Piano & Organ: **Jake Savona**

06. HAVANA MEETS KINGSTON feat. Brenda Navarrete

(B.Guzman / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar & Oliver Valdés** Bass: **Robbie Shakespeare** Guitars: **Winston 'Bopee' Bowen** Tres: **Juan de la Cruz "Cotó" Perez** Congas: **Yaroldy Abreu** Mixed Percussion: **Bongo Herman, Oliver Valdés & Nui Moon** Timbale: **Changuito** Pianos: **Jake Savona & Rolando Luna** Trumpets: **Julito Padrón & Lazaro Ernesto Numa Pompa** Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Backup Vocals: **Elain Morales, Francisco 'Solis' Robert, Julito Padrón & Anyilena Perera**

07. LO QUE QUIERES feat. Barbarito Torres & Rolando Luna

(B.Torres / R.Luna / J.Savona)

Laúd: **Barbarito Torres** Piano: **Rolando Luna**



08. LÁGRIMAS NEGRAS feat. Beatriz Márquez

(M.Matamoros)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Gaston Joya** Piano: **Rolando Luna Güiro: Bongo Herman** Congas: **Yaroldy Abreu** Mixed Cuban Percussion: **Oliver Valdés & Changuito** Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Trumpet: **Julito Padrón**
Backup Vocals: **Julito Padrón, Keka Otero & Lazaro Ernesto Numa Pompa**

09. BEAT CON FLOW feat. CimaFunk

(E.Rodríguez / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Gaston Joya** Guitar: **Winston 'Bopee' Bowen**
Percussion: **Bongo Herman, Jacinto Herrera & Luis Poblete** Piano & Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Trumpet: **Julito Padrón** Saxophone: **David Suárez**
Trombones: **Juan Carlos Marín Elósegui & Antonio Leal** Turntables: **DJ Wasabi**
Backup Vocals: **Maria Carla Puga Marin, Daylé Sarasola Mora, Keka Otero & Lazaro Ernesto Numa Pompa**

10. DESTINY feat. Micah Shemaiah

(M.Shemaiah / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Robbie Shakespeare** Guitar: **Winston 'Bopee' Bowen**
Tambourine: **Bongo Herman** Piano & Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Trumpets: **Julito Padrón & Lazaro Ernesto Numa Pompa** Backup Vocals: **Shaun 'Buzzy' Anderson**

12. REGGAE Y SON feat. Pepe Ordaz, Maikel Ante, La Armada, Prince Alla, Brenda Navarrete, Telmary, Randy Valentine & El Medico

(A.Camilo / P.Ordaz / A.Tejada / R. Pujals / B.Guzman / R. Fritz / E.Mullings / R. Grinan / T Diaz / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar & Oliver Valdés** Bass: **Robbie Shakespeare** Guitars: **Winston 'Bopee' Bowen** Tres: **Juan de la Cruz "Cotó" Perez** Congas: **Yaroldy Abreu**
Mixed Percussion: **Bongo Herman & Oliver Valdés** Timbale: **Changuito**
Trumpet: **Julito Padrón** Saxophone: **David Suárez** Trombones: **Juan Carlos Marín Elósegui & Antonio Leal** Claps: **Josline Hernández, Lauren Beck & Rick Mereki** Piano & Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Backup Vocals: **Maite Paez Bolet, Moraima Marín Elósegui, Maikel Ante, Pepe Ordaz, Francisco 'Solis' Robert, Luis Daniel Castro Rodriguez & Anyilena Perera**

13. SLAVE TRADE feat. The Jewels

(G.Mannings / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums & FX: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Robbie Shakespeare** Guitars: **Baz Turnbull** Piano & Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Percussion & Kette Drum: **Bongo Herman**
Backup Vocals: **Gasford Mannings & Benjamin Davis**

14. JURAMENTO feat. Solis & Julito Padrón

(M.Matamoros)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Gaston Joya** Piano: **Alejandro Falcón** Percussion: **Bongo Herman** Trumpet: **Julito Padrón**

15. WE ARE ONE feat. Prince Alla

(E.Mullings / J.Savona / L.Dunbar / R.Shakespeare)

Drums: **Sly Dunbar** Bass: **Chris Meredith** Guitars: **Earl 'Chinna' Smith** Piano & Hammond Organ: **Jake Savona** Percussion: **Bongo Herman** Backup Vocals: **Julito Padrón**







THANK YOU

A project of this ambitious nature would be impossible without the support & encouragement of so many wonderful musicians, friends, family & industry connections around the world. I am truly grateful for your assistance.

First of all I want to thank all the Cuban and Jamaican musicians for your generous spirit & sublime musicianship. My core rhythm section from Kingston - **Sly & Robbie, Bongo Herman & Winston 'Bopee' Bowen** - thank you so much for believing in the project & flying with me into Havana. **Barbarito Torres, Rolando Luna, Rodney Barreto, Julito Padrón, Changuito, Yaroldy Abreu, Oliver Valdés, Gaston Joya** - I salute you all! Your musicianship is astonishing, true masters of your art. **Jacinto Herrera** - a deep thanks for your mentorship, guidance & support. **Javier Fredes** - thank you for opening the world of Cuban music to me. This whole project could not have happened without your help & support.

To all the brilliant artists featured on this record - **Clinton Fearon, Prince Alla, Earl "Chinna" Smith, Brenda Navarette, Dayán Carrera Fernández, CimaFunk, Beatriz Márquez, Stevie Culture, Maikel Ante, Pepe Ordaz, Juan de la Cruz "Cotó" Perez, Antonio Leal, David Suárez, Juan Carlos Marín Elósegui, El Medico, Ramón E. Padilla Pérez, Randy Valentine, The Gideon, Glasford Manning & Benji (The Jewels), Micah Shemaiah, Solis, Alejandro Falcón, Erik Alejandro Iglesias Rodriguez, Maite Paez Bolet, Moraima Marín Elósegui, Anyilena Perera, Pucho Man & Krazy Man (La Armada), Telmary, Shaun 'Bugzy' Anderson, Baz Turnbull, Tom Martin, Andrew Jackson, SupaNova & the Dub School Crew** - a huge thank you for your inspiration, friendship and commitment to this project.

Amanda de Zapirain, Lara Merrington and My Reguera - thank you for allowing me to use your beautiful photos. **Josline Hernandez, Luis Toledo Torres, Conexity, Lía Rodríguez, Eric Coelho, Glen Christiansen, Joe Sterling, Collin Laverty, Dale Thomson, Franky Li Won, Jesse I, Lauren Beck, Rick Mereki, Lee Gingold, Viktor Rlsing, Anders Rising, Lloyd Dewar, Guillaume Bougard & Anna Coelho** - you have all made immense contributions to this project. I really couldn't have done it without you! Abrazos. Thank you to **Alejandro Pulido Vilaseca** at Egrem, and **Nelson Alejandro Rodríguez** at Nelson Studios, Havana. And to everyone at **El Dandy Cafe & Bar, Havana**. Saludos!

To the wonderful teams promoting the music - **Basil, Peta** and the team @ **ABC Music, Matthieu, J.B.** and the team @ **Baco, Claire & Antoine @ Cartel, Jacob @ Cumbancha** - a huge thanks for helping bring the vision to life.

To my mother, father, sister & extended family - heartfelt thanks for your numerous contributions to this project, and support from the very beginning.

I have so many friends to thank and there is not enough room here, you all know who you are!

Finally, to all the fans & supporters of my music - this album is for you! I know you won't be disappointed. Turn it up and let the music carry you to another time, another place. **'Eyes closed, picture this...'**

Recorded at Egrem Studios (Estudios Areito 101) in Havana * Engineered by Eric Coelho * Additional sessions at **Nelson Studios**, Havana (engineered by **Nelson Alejandro Rodríguez**) & Tuff Gong Studios, Kingston * Produced & Arranged by **Jake Savona** * Mixed by **Glen Christiansen & Jake Savona** * Mastered by **Joe LaPorta** at Sterling Sound, New York * Front cover photograph by **My Reguera** * Back cover photography by **Lara Merrington** * Booklet Photography by **Amanda de Zapirain & Lara Merrington** * Artwork Design by **Dailyn Álvarez Martínez**



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11. KINGSTON NIGHTS

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