

# COMGOYÁ

International Cuban Orchestra



Brand Book

# THE FOUR PILLARS OF COMGOYÁ



## ROOTS

Our music begins in Santiago de Cuba, where rhythm is identity, community and tradition.

## RHYTHM

Traditional percussion, powerful voices and brass bring Cuban rhythms to life.



## COMMUNITY

Every Comgoyá concert comes alive with the audience.

## CULTURE

Through music, dance, education and collaboration, we share Cuba's living cultural heritage



# OUR STORY

A journey from Cuba to Norway

## Cuba – Where the Rhythm Began



Every rhythm tells a story. Cuba's musical identity was shaped by the meeting of African traditions, Spanish melodies and Caribbean influences. Across generations, music became more than entertainment—it became identity, memory and community.

## Felix – Carrying the Tradition

Raised in Santiago de Cuba, Felix Navarro grew up surrounded by these traditions. From an early age he learned Afro-Cuban percussion, folklore and instrument-making before spending more than two decades with Ballet Folklórico de Cutumba. Today, he continues that tradition as the founder and artistic director of Comgoyá.

## Comgoyá – A Living Heritage



Comgoyá brings together musicians from Cuba, Norway and around the world to celebrate Cuba's living musical heritage. Every performance combines authentic traditions with contemporary energy, inviting audiences to experience the warmth, rhythm and joy of Cuban music.



*“From Cuba to Norway, the journey continues through performance.”*

# The Meaning of Comgoyá

Comgoyá is more than a name. It represents the meeting of peoples, traditions and rhythms that shaped Cuban culture.

Different African communities, each with their own languages, music and customs, created new ways of communicating through rhythm, dance and shared traditions.

Comgoyá carries that same spirit today – bringing people together across cultures through music.

## YORUBA

Batá

Spirituality  
Rhythm  
Tradition



## CONGO

Ritmo  
Fuerza  
Herencia



## GUINEA

Tradición  
Comunicación  
Comunidad



# COMGOYÁ



## ARARÁ

Danza  
Celebración  
Comunidad



## CARABALÍ

Herencia  
Identidad  
Tradición





RUMBA



YORUBA

# AFRO-CUBAN

• TRADITIONS •



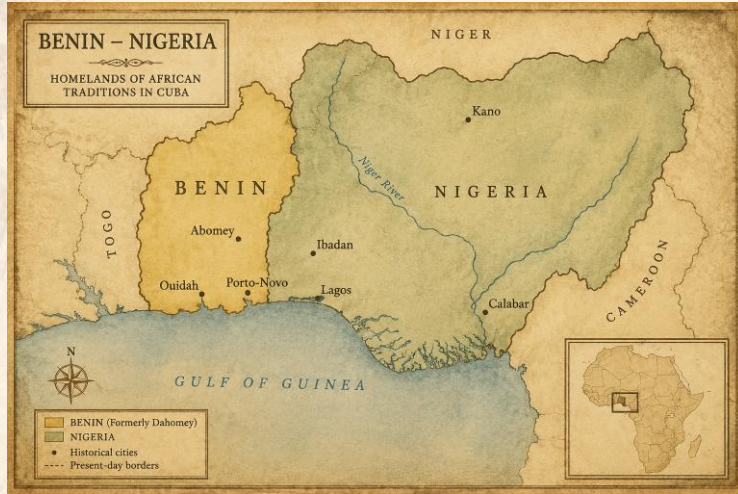
SANTERÍA



ORÍSHA



# AFRO-CUBAN TRADITIONS



## Congo

### The Congo Basin

People from the Congo Basin brought powerful drumming traditions, expressive dances and community rituals to Cuba. Their cultural heritage became a foundation of Afro-Cuban folklore and continues to shape rumba, percussion and many musical traditions today.

The roots of Cuban music lie in the traditions brought to the island by African communities. Through rhythm, dance, song and percussion, these traditions have been preserved for generations and continue to shape both Cuban music and Comgoyás artistic expression.

## Yoruba

### Present-day Nigeria and Benin

The Yoruba people were forcibly brought to Cuba from present-day Nigeria and present-day Benin during the transatlantic slave trade. Despite immense hardship, they preserved their beliefs, language, music and ceremonies. Today, Yoruba traditions remain at the heart of Afro-Cuban culture, especially through batá drumming, sacred rhythms and the traditions connected to the orishas.

*These traditions continue to shape the music, instruments and performances of Comgoyá.*



*Shekere*

## Arará

Originating among the Fon and related peoples of present-day Benin (formerly Dahomey), Arará traditions remain an important part of Cuba's living Afro-Cuban heritage through drumming, song and ceremony.

## Carabalí

Communities from the Calabar region of present-day Nigeria brought traditions centered on rhythm, dance and mutual support. Their heritage lives on through music, ceremonies and the historic Abacua society, which continues to influence Cuban percussion and popular culture.

## Iyesá

Originating from Yoruba communities, the Iyesá tradition became especially important in Matanzas. Its distinctive rhythms continue to be performed in both ceremonial and folkloric settings.

## Vodú

Although best known from Haiti, Vodú traditions from Dahomey (present-day Benin) also became part of eastern Cuba through migration and cultural exchange. Their music, percussion and ceremonies remain an important part of Cuba's Afro-Caribbean heritage.

## Tumba Francesa

Recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage, Tumba Francesa emerged in eastern Cuba through the meeting of African traditions and French-Caribbean culture. It remains one of Cuba's oldest living musical traditions.

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## A Living Heritage

Together, these traditions have shaped Cuba's unique musical identity. Blending African, Spanish and Caribbean influences, they gave rise to son, rumba, bolero, mambo, cha-cha-cha, salsa and many other Cuban genres. Today, Comgoyá honors this living heritage through performances rooted in authenticity, tradition and respect.



*Tumba Francesa*

# THE CUBAN SOUND



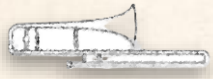
**SON**



**RUMBA**



**BOLERO**



**MAMBO**



**CHA-CHA-CHA**



**TIMBA & SALSA**



*Together, these traditions create the musical language of Comgoyá—rooted in Cuba, shaped by history and brought to life on stage.*

# THE SOUND OF TRADITION

*"A drum is both plant and animal.  
Wood gives it its body.  
Skin gives it its voice."*

*For Felix Navarro every instrument tells a story. Together they create  
the unmistakable sound of Cuba and continue to carry its traditions  
from one generation to the next.*



HABANA

CUBA

# CONGAS (Tumbadoras)

## The Heartbeat



Known in Cuba as *tumbadoras*, these drums provide the heartbeat of the orchestra.

Their warm, powerful sound drives son, rumba, salsa and timba. Crafted from hardwood and natural hide, every tumbadora has its own unique voice. For Félix Navarro, building and tuning these drums is part of preserving Cuban tradition.

### FACTS

#### ORIGIN

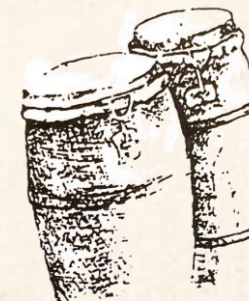
Cuba

#### ROLE

Rhythmic foundation

#### MATERIALS

Hardwood



“Every drum speaks its own language.”

# BATÁ

## The Sacred Voice



The batá drums—Iyá, Itótele and Okónkolo—are sacred instruments at the heart of Afro-Cuban tradition. Handcrafted from wood and natural hide, each drum has its own voice and purpose. Together, they connect music, culture and spirituality.

### FACTS

#### ORIGIN

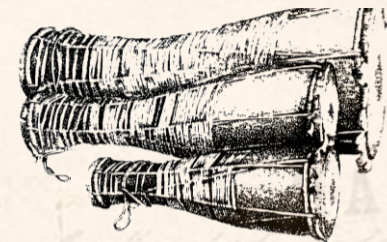
Cuba

#### ROLE

Ceremonial

#### MATERIALS

Hardwood



# BONGOS

## The Pulse of Son



The bongos are two small drums that work as one instrument. Together they create the unmistakable rhythmic pulse of Son Cubano. Small in size they are essential to the Cuban groove.

### FACTS

#### **ORIGIN**

Eastern Cuba

#### **ROLE**

Son Cubano

#### **MATERIALS**

Hardwood



CUBA

# TIMBALES

## The Spark



Bright, energetic and unmistakably Cuban, the timbales drive mambo, cha-cha-cha, salsa and timba. Their crisp accents and fills bring excitement to the orchestra—and invite everyone to dance.

### FACTS

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#### ORIGIN

Cuba

#### ROLE

Rhythmic accents

#### MATERIALS

Steel shells



CUBA

# TRES CUBANO

## The Soul of Son



The Cuban tres is the unmistakable voice of traditional son. Its three pairs of strings weave melody and rhythm together, creating a sound that has defined Cuban music for generations.

### FACTS

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#### ORIGIN

Eastern Cuba

#### ROLE

Melody & rhythm

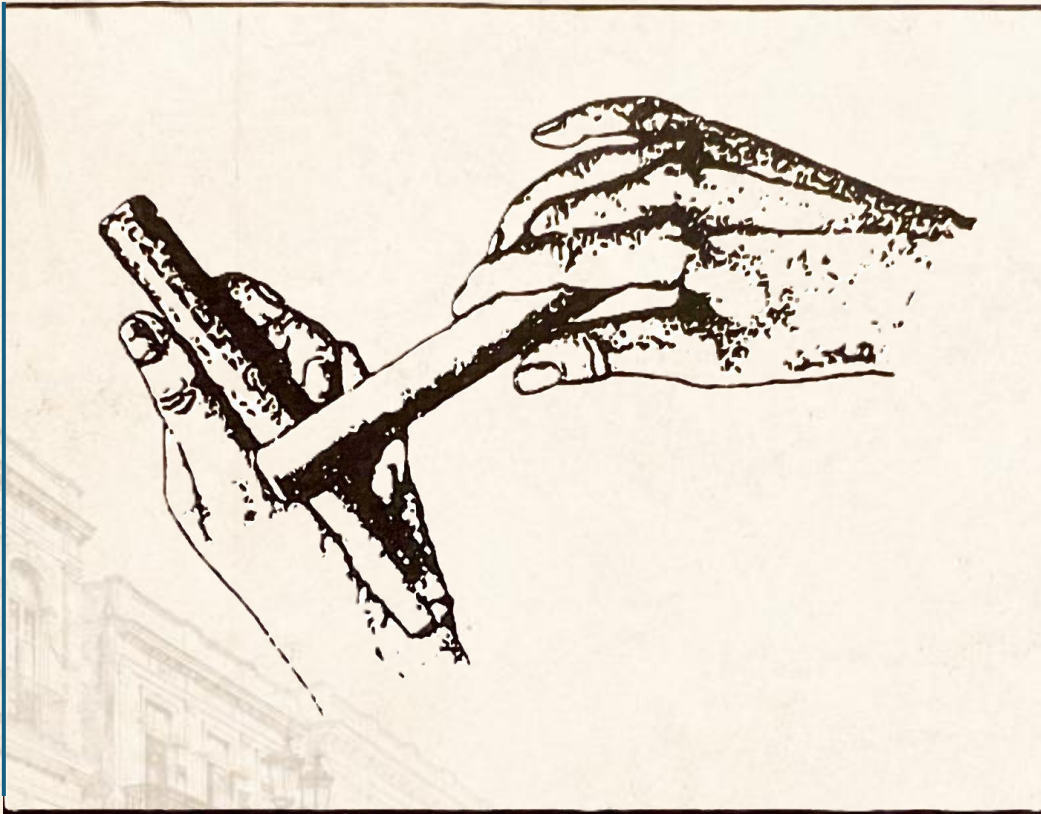
#### MATERIALS

Wood • Six strings in three pairs



# CLAVES

## The Foundation



Two simple pieces of hardwood. The rhythmic foundation of Cuban music. Whether heard or simply felt, the claves guide every musician in the orchestra.

### FACTS

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#### ORIGIN

Cuba

#### ROLE

Rhythmic foundation

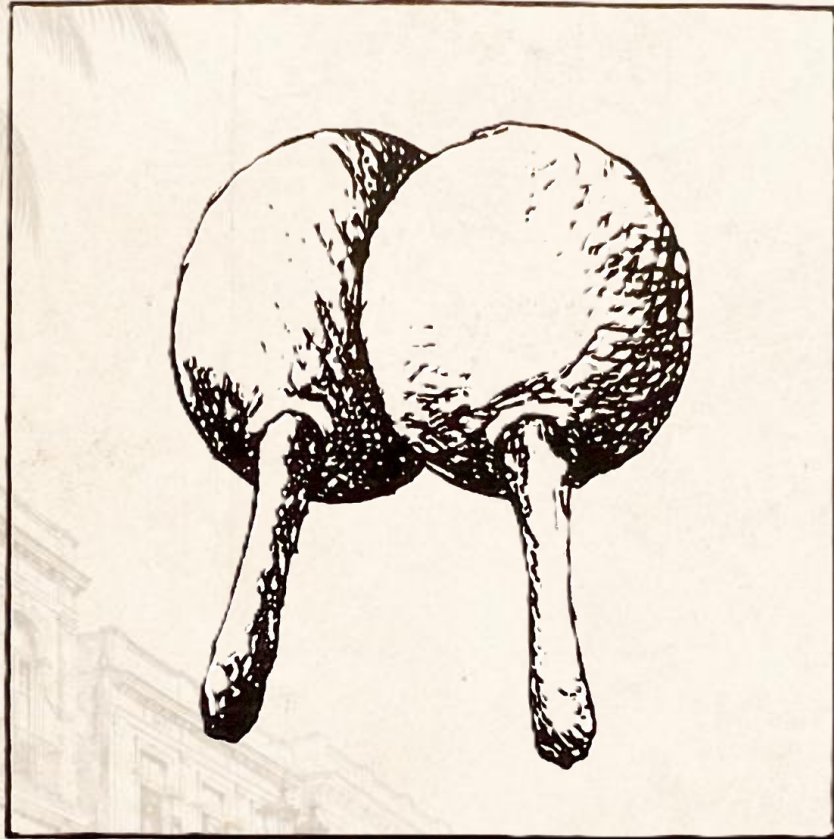
#### MATERIALS

Hardwood

*"Everything begins with the clave."*

# MARACAS

## The Spirit of the Groove



Traditionally made from dried calabash gourds filled with seeds, maracas add movement rather than volume. Their gentle pulse gives Cuban music its characteristic flow.

### FACTS

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#### ORIGIN

Caribbean

#### ROLE

Rhythmic texture

#### MATERIALS

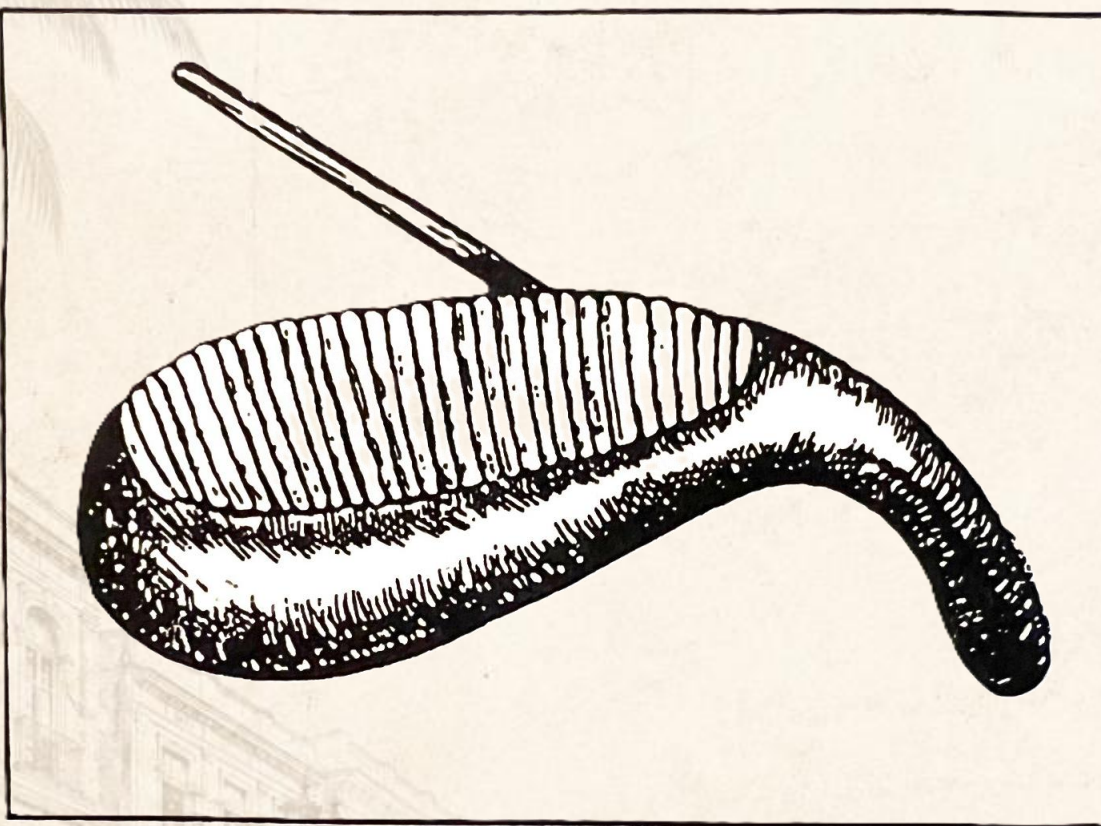
Dried calabash • Seeds



HABANA  
CUBA

# GÜIRO

## The Sound of Movement



Carved from a dried calabash, the güiro creates the continuous rhythmic flow that connects percussion, melody and dance. Often unnoticed—but never absent.

### FACTS

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#### ORIGIN

Caribbean / Cuba

#### ROLE

Continuous rhythmic texture

#### MATERIALS

Dried calabash

# THE CRAFT BEHIND THE SOUND



Felix Navarro sees instrument-making as a way of keeping traditions alive.

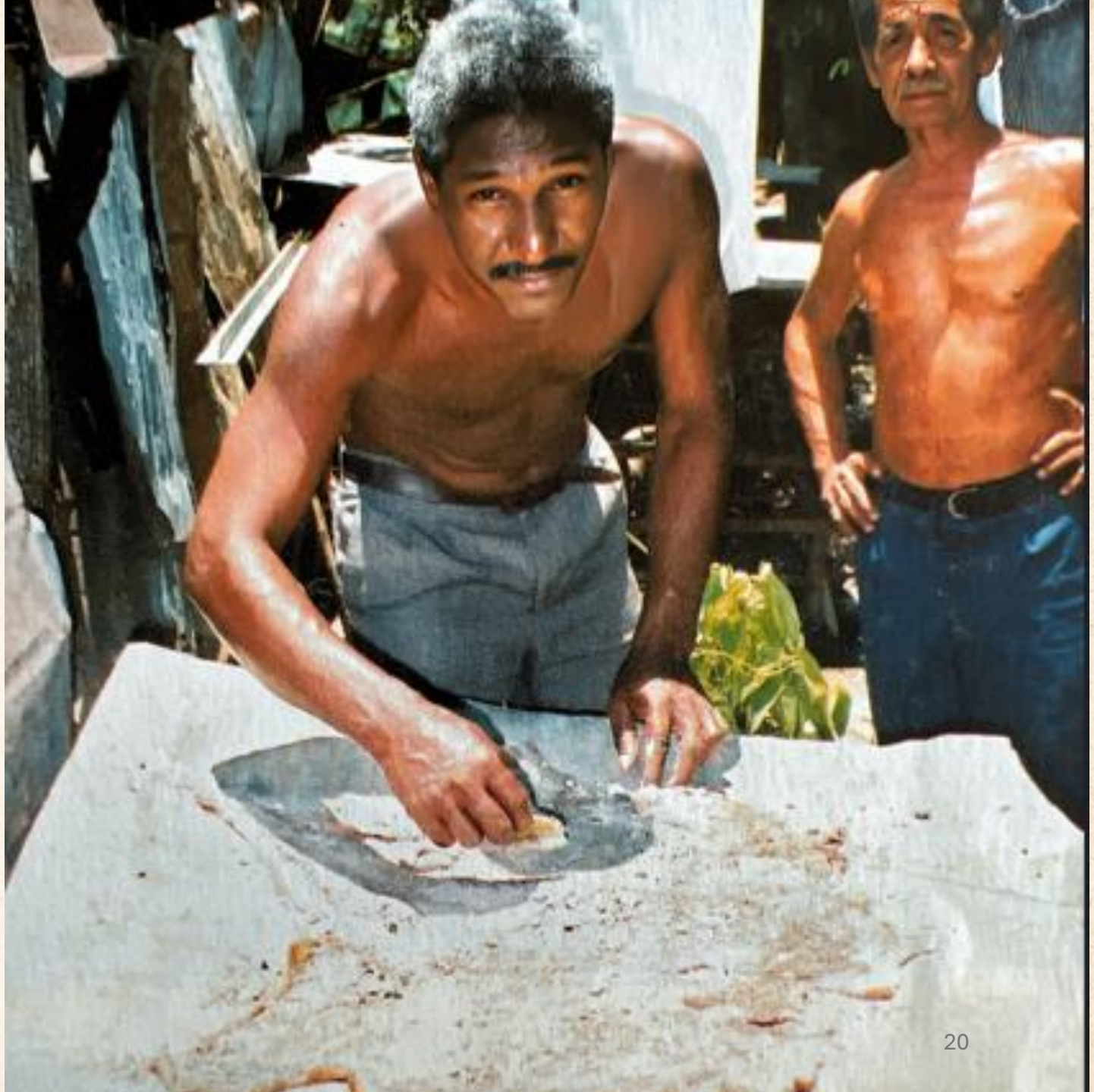
Over the course of his career, he has handcrafted Afro-Cuban drums for Ballet Folklórico de Cutumba, international exhibitions in Spain and Norway, and for Comgoyás own performances.

For Felix, every instrument begins with carefully selected wood, natural hides and techniques passed down through generations.

**With Comgoyá, the music begins long before the orchestra steps onto the stage.**

*"Every drum begins long before the first note is played."*

***"Wood gives the  
drum its body.  
Skin gives it its  
voice."***



# MEET COMGOYÁ



Eleven musicians from five countries.

**One Cuban orchestra.**

Felix – Percussion  
Alejandra – Vocals  
Antonio – Timbales • Drums  
Brage – Trombone  
Jason – Bass  
Jomar – Vocals

Katerine – Piano  
Kim – Trumpet  
Norge – Vocals  
Rayner – Vocals  
Valerio – Guitar • Tres

# FELIX NAVARRO NAVARRO

FOUNDER • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR • PERCUSSION



## *The Tradition Bearer*

Raised in Santiago de Cuba, Felix Navarro has spent a lifetime preserving and sharing Afro-Cuban musical traditions.

After more than two decades with Ballet Folklórico de Cutumba, he founded Comgoyá—an orchestra that unites musicians from diverse backgrounds through authentic Cuban music, cultural heritage and the joy of live performance.

## CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

MI TIERRA  
MIS TRADICIONES  
EL PAÍS DONDE NACÍ

MY HOMELAND  
MY TRADITIONS  
THE COUNTRY WHERE I WAS BORN

*“La tradición es respeto.”*

## FACTS

### BASED IN

Oslo, Norway

### FROM

Santiago de Cuba

### WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE

2022

### SPECIALTY

Afro-Cuban percussion

Batá • Congas • Bongos

Instrument making

Teaching percussion

# ALEJANDRA TABITA

## LEAD VOCALS



### *The Voice of Joy*

Born in Artemisa, Cuba, **Alejandra Tabita** represents a new generation of Cuban artists proud of their musical heritage. For her, Cuban music is home—a source of rhythm, joy and belonging.

With Comgoyá, Alejandra brings warmth, authenticity and a love of performing, creating concerts where music, dance and human connection come together.

### CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

HAPPINESS

ART

LOVE

*"Cuban music always  
takes me home."*

### FACTS

#### BORN

Artemisa, Cuba

#### ROLE

Lead Vocals

#### WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE

2026

#### INSPIRED BY

A wide range of music, from traditional Cuban artists to contemporary performers

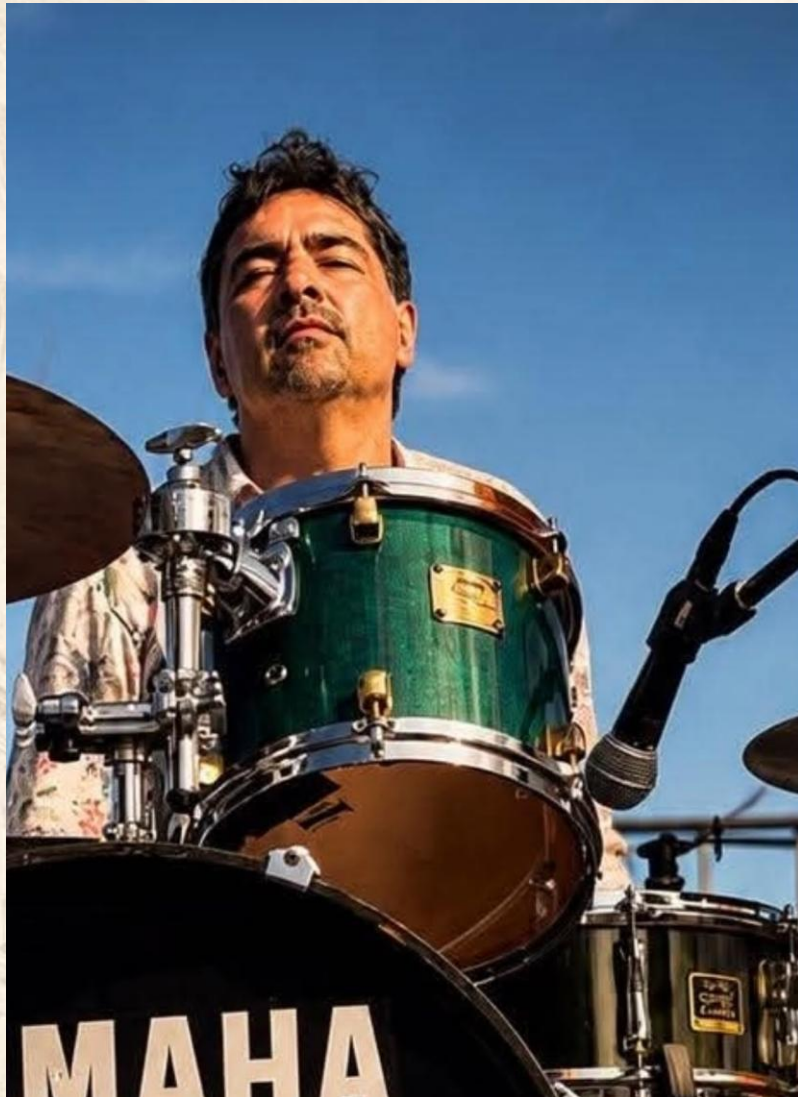
#### THREE WORDS

Passionate • Caring • Clumsy



# ANTONIO TORNER MORA

TIMBALES • DRUM SET



## *The Rhythm Between Cultures*

Born in Mexico City, percussionist **Antonio Torner Mora** has devoted much of his life to music. Through Comgoyá he has discovered new dimensions of Cuban music and culture, inspiring him to explore its rhythms and traditions with growing respect.

For Antonio, music is a source of joy, and his greatest inspiration comes from the musicians around him. His hope is that audiences leave wanting to hear more.

## **CUBA THROUGH MY EYES**

**JOY**  
**MUSIC**  
**RHYTHM**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

*Respect and understanding for others.*

## **FACTS**

### **BORN**

Mexico City, Mexico

### **INSTRUMENTS**

Timbales • Drum set

### **PLAYING SINCE**

1989

### **WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE**

2022

### **INSPIRED BY**

His fellow musicians

### **THREE WORDS**

Patient • Organized • Disciplined



CUBA

# BRAGE ROGNLIEN

TROMBONE



## *Finding New Colors*

Born in Oslo, Norway, trombonist **Brage Rognlien** has been making music for more than three decades. He approaches Cuban music with curiosity and deep respect, describing it as *"an elegant puzzle"* that constantly reveals new colors and possibilities. For Brage, the joy of Comgoyá lies in the shared journey of discovery and the strong musical bond within the orchestra.

## CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

TRADITIONS  
MUSIC  
LIFE

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

*Most limitations exist only in our own minds.*

*"Cuban music is an elegant puzzle—  
always alive, never quite the same."*

## FACTS

### BORN

Oslo, Norway

### INSTRUMENT

Trombone

### PLAYING SINCE

1989

### WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE

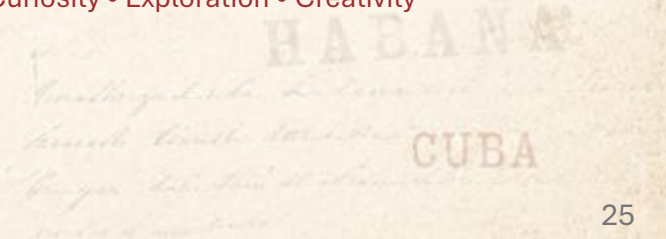
2023

### INSPIRED BY

Jazz musicians and musical traditions  
from around the world

### THREE WORDS

Curiosity • Exploration • Creativity



# JASON ERNESTO THRANE STORSVE

B A S S



## The Art of Listening

Born in Oslo with Guatemalan roots, bassist Jason Ernesto Thrane Storsve has been making music for most of his life. For him, Cuban music is about listening, leaving space for improvisation and becoming part of the conversation between musicians, dancers and audiences. In Comgoyá, Jason finds joy in watching people dance and in the musical connection that grows on stage with every performance.

## CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

**MOUNTAINS**  
**SEA**  
**CULTURE**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

*The path is made by walking.*

***"Every performance is  
a conversation."***

## FACTS

### **BORN**

Oslo, Norway with Guatemalan roots

### **INSTRUMENT**

Bass

### **PLAYING SINCE**

Childhood

### **WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE**

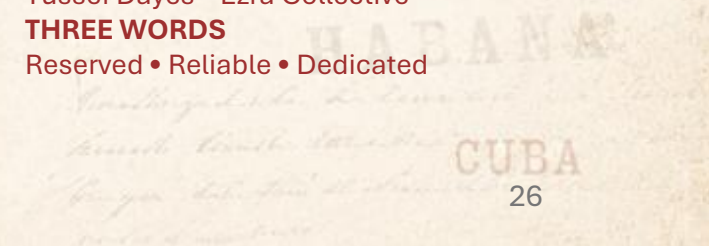
2025

### **INSPIRED BY**

Yussef Dayes • Ezra Collective

### **THREE WORDS**

Reserved • Reliable • Dedicated



# JOMAR CABRERA REYES

LEAD VOCALS • GÜIRO



## *The Voice of His Roots*

Born in Havana, Cuba, vocalist **Jomar Cabrera Reyes** has spent more than fifteen years sharing the richness of Cuban music. For him, singing is the most authentic expression of his roots and culture.

In Comgoyá, he brings those roots to the stage, using his voice to connect the music with the audience.

## CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

**MUSIC**  
**BASEBALL**  
**TOBACCO**  
**RUM**

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

*The best way to say something is to do it.*

*"Cuban music is the truest way to express who I am and where I come from."*

## FACTS

### BORN

Havana, Cuba

### ROLE

Lead Vocals • Güiro

### PLAYING SINCE

2015

### WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE

2024

### INSPIRED BY

Benny Moré

### THREE WORDS

Serious • Thoughtful • Dedicated



# KATERINE ESPINAL

PIANO



## Opening New Horizons

Born in Nicaragua, pianist Katerine Dayana Espinal Melendez has been making music for over twenty years. Cuban music opened the door to Caribbean rhythms and new ways of making music. In Comgoyá, she values the fellowship between the musicians and the opportunity to learn from one another.

## CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

RESILIENCE

JOY

MUSIC

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE

*The one that wins is the one you choose to feed.*

## FACTS

### BORN

Nicaragua

### INSTRUMENT

Piano

### PLAYING SINCE

2006

### WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE

2022

### INSPIRED BY

Carlos Mejía Godoy • Celia Cruz • Fania All-Stars • Astor Piazzolla

### THREE WORDS

Respectful • Expressive • Reflective

***"Cuban music opened the door to an entire musical world."***

# KIM LAURITS KOFFELD

TRUMPET



## ***The Sound of Son***

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Born in Oslo, Norway, trumpeter Kim Laurits Koffeld has played music for more than forty years. Throughout his career, Cuban son has remained a constant source of inspiration, with its distinctive rhythm, emotion and rich harmonies. In Comgoyá, Kim values the musicianship, the Cuban voices and the joy of seeing audiences leave happier than when they arrived.

## **CUBA THROUGH MY EYES**

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**WARM PEOPLE**  
**EXTRAORDINARY MUSIC**  
**RESILIENCE**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

*If you can't change it, don't let it make you miserable—choose to smile instead.*

***“Son has everything: rhythm, emotion and beautiful harmonies.”***

## **FACTS**

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### **BORN**

Oslo, Norway

### **INSTRUMENT**

Trumpet

### **PLAYING SINCE**

1985

### **WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE**

2022

### **INSPIRED BY**

Great live performers from many musical traditions

### **THREE WORDS**

Friendly • Harmonious • Passionate about music



CUBA

# NORGE FLORES FALCON

LEAD VOCALS • MARACAS



## *The Voice of Identity*

Born in Las Tunas, Cuba, vocalist and percussionist Norge Flores Falcon has been making music for more than 27 years. For him, Cuban music is identity, spirituality and the deepest expression of human emotion. In Comgoyá, he values the connection between the musicians, the music and its roots.

## CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

IDENTITY

MUSIC

FEELINGS

FAVORITE QUOTE

*Fuerza y fe*

*"For me, Cuban music is spirituality through sound."*

## FACTS

**BORN**

Las Tunas, Cuba

**ROLE**

Lead Vocals • Maracas

**PLAYING SINCE**

1999

**WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE**

2023

**INSPIRED BY**

Benny Moré and artists from Cuba, Brazil and the United States

**THREE WORDS**

Energy • Rhythm • Connection



CUBA

# RAYNER TARÍN CAMPS

LEAD VOCALS • GÜIRO



## The Voice of Life

Born in Cuba, vocalist Rayner Tarín Camps has been making music since the age of twenty. Inspired by his parents and the music around him, he sees Cuban music as a blessing in his life. For Rayner, performing is about sharing and seeing the audience leave satisfied, knowing they have enjoyed the music.

## CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

SUN

FAMILY  
MUSIC

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

*Become a little better every day.*

*"Music is life."*

## FACTS

### BORN

Havana, Cuba

### ROLE

Lead Vocals • Güiro

### PLAYING SINCE

1996

### WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE

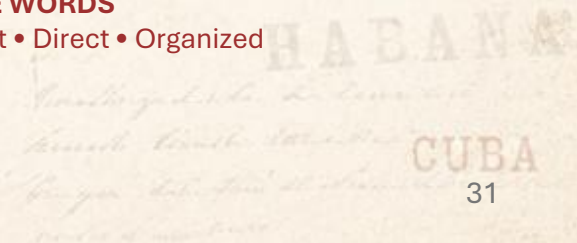
2023

### INSPIRED BY

Nature itself—water, rocks, earth and everyday life

### THREE WORDS

Honest • Direct • Organized



# VALERIO BOTTARI

GUITAR • TRES • BASS



## The Spirit of Connection

Born in a small coastal town on the Italian Riviera, multi-instrumentalist Valerio Bottari has been making music for 25 years. For him, Cuban music is a celebration of rhythm, tradition and human connection. Every style tells a story, allowing him to honor its roots while sharing its energy and joy with others. In Comgoyá, Valerio values the chemistry between the musicians and the energy they create together. He hopes audiences leave smiling, energized and ready to dance—even forgetting their worries for a while.

## CUBA THROUGH MY EYES

**RHYTHM**

**SOUL**

**VITALITY**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

*“A good player is always lucky.”*  
— José Raúl Capablanca

***“If they forget their worries for a while, we’ve done our job.”***

## FACTS

### **BORN**

Italian Riviera, Italy

### **INSTRUMENTS**

Guitar • Bass • Baby Bass • Tres • Backing Vocals

### **PLAYING SINCE**

2001

### **WITH COMGOYÁ SINCE**

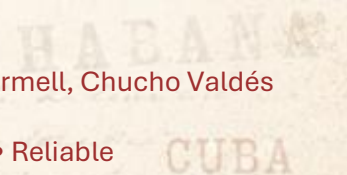
2023

### **INSPIRED BY**

Bola de Nieve, Juan Formell, Chucho Valdés

### **THREE WORDS**

Passionate • Curious • Reliable



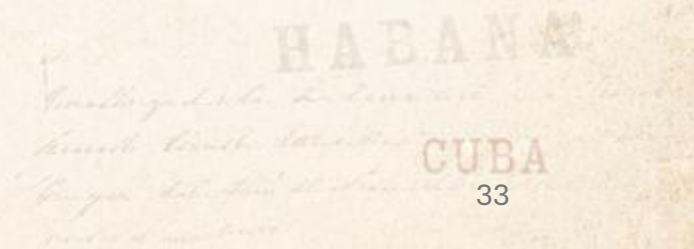
# THE LIVE EXPERIENCE



The moment the first rhythm begins, the audience becomes part of the orchestra. Dancing, singing and shared joy transform every concert into an unforgettable celebration of Cuban culture.



Authentic Cuban music.  
Shared energy.  
Unforgettable moments.



# WHERE MUSIC BECOMES COMMUNITY



The audience doesn't just watch the concert—they become part of it.

BEHIND EVERY PERFORMANCE

# PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTION



From the first stage plot to the final encore, Comgoyá works closely with venues, technicians and festival organizers to make every performance run smoothly — on stage and behind the scenes.

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Stage planning and advance coordination

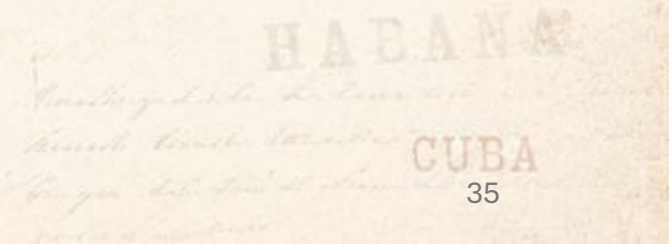
Detailed technical rider

Flexible stage setup for different venues

Production and logistics coordination

Structured load-in and soundcheck

Collaboration with local technical crews



# FROM INTIMATE VENUES TO MAJOR FESTIVALS



## CLUBS

Warm • Intimate • Interactive

## CONCERT HALLS

Focused listening • Rich acoustics

## FESTIVALS

Large audiences • Dance • Celebration



Whether performing in an intimate jazz club, a concert hall or on a festival stage, Comgoyá adapts each performance to the venue while preserving the authenticity, energy and musical quality that define the orchestra.

CUBA

# WORKSHOPS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Music and dance from the Yoruba tradition • Rumba  
• Family Events • Percussion Workshops • School  
Concerts • Cultural Workshops

CUBA

# WHY PRESENTERS CHOOSE COMGOYÁ

**Authentic Cuban music.  
Professional production.  
Unforgettable experiences.**

# BRING THE SPIRIT OF CUBA TO YOUR STAGE



## INTERNATIONAL BOOKING & CONTACT

**Cuban Music**

**Sissel Jor**

**Telephone:** +47 99 49 62 88

**E-mail:** [sjor@cubanmusic.no](mailto:sjor@cubanmusic.no)

[comgoya.no](http://comgoya.no)

[Instagram](#) · [Facebook](#) · [YouTube](#)



HABANA

CUBA

La tradición  
es respeto.

— Felix Navarro

