



Jazz Improvisation

CLINICIANS:

Alfredo Vélez III, Ernesto Vega

DEMONSTRATION GROUP:

Kingwood Big Band Combo

Texas Bandmasters Association 2016 Convention/Clinic

JULY 21-24, 2016

**HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

Texas Bandmasters Clinic
July 23, 2016

JAZZ IMPROVISATION WITH A CUBAN INFLUENCE

Ernesto Vega, Clarinet, Havana, Cuba

Alfredo Velez and the Kingwood Big Band combo,

Paul English-piano, Erik Estrada-bass, JD Guzman-drums, Patrick Brink-trumpet

PART I

A brief history of Cuban music and its representative genres as such:

- contradanza
- Danza
- Danzón
- Cha-Cha-Chá
- Mambo
- Son
- Bolero
- afro-cuban
- Guajira
- Pregón
- Cuban feeling in general
- etc.

Ernesto will perform clarinet excerpts to explain this process as well using recorded examples.

PART II

- Jazz improvisation
- Cuban jazz scene today
- Debut of Vega's original compositions with the KBB combo

Conclusions/questions

Ernesto Vega, clarinetist, saxophonist, composer and bandleader is a graduate of the Havana's Higher Institute of Art and also attended The Jose M. Ochoa Music Conservatory in Holguin, Cuba. His first international performance was in 2003 when the multi-talented Chilean musician Carlos Masa invited him to participate in two CDs for the Label Bleu Records, (Amiens, France): "Chocala" and "Salvedad". Simultaneously they were also performing their music in Europe, at Lausanne Jazz Festival (Switzerland) and Amiens Jazz Festival (France). Later, he wins the First Award at the international jazz competition Jojazz, celebrated every year in Cuba, where the finest young jazz musicians participate with great hope. In 2004 he becomes a member of the "Oriental Quartet" along with the Cuban jazz pianist Alejandro Vargas, and being into this project, he played in several international festivals like Quito Jazz Festival (Ecuador) and Mercado cultural (Cultural Market) in Sao Paulo and Bahia (Brazil). The first recording of the Oriental Quartet came out under the name of "Trapiche" in 2008; this record won the Cubadisco Award in the same year. Later, Ernesto recorded in more than 30 discographic productions, becoming one of the most important young figures of Clarinet in Cuba. In 2009 he records his first solo CD "Venir al Mundo" (Coming into the World) as a composer and interpreter. He obtained with this CD the Cubadisco Award as the best jazz recording of the year. Ernesto Vega has performed with Chucho Valdes, Steve Turre, Ernan Lopez Nussa, Roy Hargrove and others in bands and orchestras worldwide. He has been a featured performer in ensembles such as the Havana Jazz Collective, Joe Sample Orchestra, Winton Marsalis Lincoln Center jazz Orchestra, Kingwood big band and Festivals such as the Trinity Jazz Festival-Houston, Jazz in Marciac-France, North Sea Jazz Festival-Rotterdam, Holland, and the Lousanne Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

Alfredo Vélez III Alfredo Vélez III is Director of Bands at Lone Star College-Kingwood. He directs the renowned Kingwood Big Band, Kingwood Symphonic Band and the LSC-Kingwood Symphonic and Jazz Ensembles. In addition, he supervises all aspects of the band program and teaches courses in music education. Mr. Vélez has held positions as Director of Bands at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Assistant Director of Wind Studies at the University of North Texas, Interim Director of Bands at Texas Christian University and Associate Director at Sam Houston State University. Mr. Vélez began his career in the Plano Independent School District, including nine years as director at Clark High School. Throughout his career, Alfredo Vélez has been recognized for his concert, jazz and marching bands' performances. Texas A&M-Kingsville Wind Symphony received exemplarity reviews for their performances. He conducted the inaugural concert of the Lone Star Wind Orchestra at the Meyerson Symphony Center. His dedication to advancing the arts is only surpassed by his strong advocacy for music education in the state of Texas. Alfredo Vélez holds Bachelor and Master's degrees from Angelo State University. He is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator. Professional affiliations include Texas Music Educators Association and Phi Beta Mu. He is Past President of Texas Bandmasters Association.

The Kingwood Big Band has recently featured notable guest artists Randy Brecker, Eric Marienthal, Ken Watters and Bill Watrous. Conrad Herwig will be our featured artist at the Kingwood Jazz Festival in March 2017. The KBB performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2007 and has been invited to perform at the prestigious 2017 Havana International Jazz Festival in Havana, Cuba.