

***Cuba Educational Travel, the
Trombone Shorty Foundation and
Havana Jazz Plaza Present:***

GETTING FUNKY IN HAVANA

www.gettingfunkyinhavana.com



JANUARY 14-18, 2020

GETTING FUNKY IN HAVANA

The *Getting Funky in Havana* cultural exchange project seeks to further strengthen the New Orleans – Havana connection through music and the arts. Led by the next generation of musicians and community leaders in both cities, the weeklong event will include workshops at schools and NGOs, impromptu jam sessions, performances at the Fabrica de Arte Cubano (FAC), a street parade in Old Havana and a grand finale concert featuring the Trombone Shorty Foundation, The Soul Rebels and Tank and the Bangas, all-star bands from New Orleans, and CimaFunk, Cuba's top musical act.

"New Orleans and Cuba share many commonalities; the importance of tradition, spirituality, art and a deep quality of soul within our music. We brought CimaFunk into our world when he landed in New Orleans, and we're overjoyed to immerse ourselves in his world when we land in Cuba."

– THE SOUL REBELS

"We are thrilled and grateful for this opportunity to play in Cuba, getting a chance to put into practice the ultimate truth that music always has and always will bring people from all walks of life and places together!"

– TANK AND THE BANGAS

"Visiting New Orleans has been one of the highlights of my musical career. I can't wait to return the favor and show my American brothers and sisters the richness of my country's culture and bring out the funk in Havana."

– CIMAFUNK

"After visiting Havana and having my mind blown over and over again by the talent and spirit of Cuba's music and people, I was determined to get back down there and bring along some friends."

– BILL TAYLOR, TROMBONE SHORTY FOUNDATION

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime event that couldn't come at a more important moment. It will be life-changing for many and the impact will be felt long into the future."

– COLLIN LAVERTY, CUBA EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

BUILDING BRIDGES AND CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Changes by the U.S. Government have made it more difficult for Americans to travel to Cuba and Cubans to travel to the U.S., taking a toll on people in both countries. Rhetoric and hostility between governments have heightened and the overall bilateral relationship has reached a low point not seen in a decade or longer. ***Getting Funky in Havana***, through music and cross-cultural engagement, serves to maintain and build bridges, recognizing that it's the people in both countries that benefit from a more open relationship. The event also serves to celebrate the diversity of Cuban and U.S. culture and the strong African influence in music and the arts; and pass the torch to a new generation of artists that are ambassadors of their cities and cultures.

THE LOUISIANA-CUBA CONNECTION

The historical, cultural and economic connections between Cuba and Louisiana date back hundreds of years. Despite complicated and at times difficult relations on a national level, the shared culture and history have continued to bring together the people of Cuba and Louisiana. Music has been one of the bridges that first connected our lands and has played an important role in keeping the Cuba-Louisiana friendship strong and growing. ***Getting Funky in Havana*** aims to build on these strong traditions and past initiatives to celebrate and further strengthen these important bonds.





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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

NOLA Kicks Off the Havana Jazz Fest

New Orleans and Cuban musicians will perform at Havana's National Theater for the opening gala of Havana Jazz Plaza. Enjoy an unforgettable night in a historic venue.

Tuesday, January 14 Late Night

A Musical Connection Across Cultures

A dozen New Orleans youth musicians from the Trombone Shorty Foundation will perform for Cuban students at the Amadeo Roldan Music Conservatory, who will in turn play for their visiting colleagues. CimaFunk and his band, The Soul Rebels and Tank and the Bangas will be on hand to join in the youth jam session.

Wednesday, January 15 Morning

Second Line Meets Conga

New Orleans and Cuban musicians will take over part of Old Havana for a first ever Second Line meets Conga Celebration. Second lining has been called "the quintessential New Orleans art form – a jazz funeral without a body." *Conga* refers to the music groups within Cuban *comparsas* and the music they play. *Comparsas* are large ensembles of musicians, singers and dancers with a specific costume and choreography which perform in the street carnivals of Santiago de Cuba and Havana.

Wednesday, January 15 Afternoon

Tank and the Bangas Performance

New Orleans' hottest band, fresh off a Grammy 2020 nomination for best new artist, will take over Fabrica de Arte Cubano, recently named by Time Magazine as one of the coolest places in the World. Expect great guest performances by other major acts at Jazz Plaza and Cuban superstars.

Wednesday, January 15 Evening

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Mardi Gras Meets Havana

Witness history with a performance by Monk Boudreaux, Big Chief of the Golden Eagles, and Cuban percussionists. This event will mark the first time a Mardi Gras Indian will perform in full attire in Cuba.

Thursday, January 16 Morning

The Poets of Havana and New Orleans

Gather in the garden of a Havana Art Gallery for intimate performances by singer-songwriters Anders Osborne and Carlos Varela. Osborne, a legendary Louisiana artist, and Varela, known as the Bob Dylan of Cuba,

Thursday, January 16 Evening

New Orleans Brass Shines at FAC

Trombone Shorty Foundation & Soul Rebels Performance. The Fabrica de Arte Cubano will once again be blessed by crazy New Orleans talent, this time the Trombone Shorty Foundation, led by one of the world's top trombone players Troy "Trombone Shorty," and the Soul Rebels will bring New Orleans soul and funk.

Thursday, January 16 Night

Getting Funky at the Tropical

The buzz is out in Havana and music lovers expect the 2020 concert of the year at the Tropical, Cuba's historic outdoor venue. The Trombone Shorty Foundation, The Soul Rebels, Tank and the Bangas and CimaFunk will bring the funky to a full house under the stars.

Friday, January 17 Evening

THE POWER OF GETTING FUNKY

US-Cuba Relations: The show comes at a downturn in bilateral relations; a bright spot during a difficult moment and an attempt to build bridges instead of walls.

Organic Connections: The cultural exchange is a natural result of the strong ties between New Orleans and Havana and the organic friendship and admiration between musicians that resulted from CimaFunk's visit to New Orleans in 2019.

Trombone Shorty & the Cuban Connection: Troy Andrews, aka "Trombone Shorty," visited Cuba as a teenager in what was an important moment in his personal and professional formation. He will return for the first time, bringing along dozens of young New Orleans musicians from his foundation.

Bringing the Funk to Havana: CimaFunk has made national and international headlines for rivaling the dominance of *reggaeton* and salsa in Cuba with his Afro-Cuban Funk. Bringing rising stars from New Orleans – and the talent and culture they represent – will further cement the funk movement.

Celebrating Diversity: There's a growing movement in Cuba to recognize and celebrate Afro culture and Getting Funky in Havana will occupy important spaces and identify new supporters of those initiatives.

The Future at Play: Tank and the Bangas, nominated for the Best New Artist Grammy 2020, CimaFunk, considered "the Cuban revelation of the year" by Billboard, and Soul Rebels, fresh off a powerful new album, are some of the hottest up-and-coming groups in their cities and the world.



TANK AND THE BANGAS

Winners of NPR's 2017 Tiny Desk concert and AfroPunk Brooklyn's 2016 Battle of the Bands, the lively fusion of funk, soul, hip hop, rock, and spoken word are nominated to the 2020 Grammys for Best New Artist.

THE SOUL REBELS

New Orleans-bred staple The Soul Rebels expand musical boundaries with an unwavering commitment to originality by fusing hip hop, funk, jazz and soul with powerful horns and drums. Recent highlights include their new album Poetry In Motion, performances with Katy Perry, Nas and DMX, a feature on NPR Tiny Desk, an appearance on The Late Show.

HAVANA JAZZ PLAZA FESTIVAL

For over three decades, this festival has brought together musicians and music lovers from across the island and across the world, with Havana and New Orleans, and their strong musical connections, always front and center.

THE TROMBONE SHORTY FOUNDATION

Founded by renowned New Orleans musician Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, the foundation supports the city's unique culture by preparing the next generation of performers for success in music and in life.

CIMAFUNK

Afro-Cuban funk that has turned the island upside down, Billboard's "Cuban revelation of the year," is eager to expand the fast-growing funk movement in Havana with his colleagues from New Orleans.

CUBA EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

CET is the leading organization arranging US travel to Cuba and events on the island with over a decade of experience and thousands of projects under its belt.



CONTACT

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