

GRAMMY NOMINATED ARTIST

MANUEL VALERA TRIO

with Hans Glawischnig & EJ Strickland

"He leaves no doubt that he is destined to play a role in the future of jazz." —Philip Van Vleck, Billboard



MANUEL VALERA | Piano

HANS GLAWISCHNIG | Bass

EJ STRICKLAND | Drums

the artist Based in New York City, Grammy nominated pianist and composer Manuel Valera was born and raised in Havana, Cuba. Since arriving in NYC, he has become well known in the NYC modern jazz scene, garnering national reviews and lending his talents as a pianist and composer to such notable artist as Arturo Sandoval, Paquito D'Rivera, Brian Lynch, Dafnis Prieto, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Chris Potter, Dave Binney, Adam Rogers, Mark Turner, John Benitez, Samuel Torres, Joel Frahm, Yosvany Terry and Pedro Martinez among many others.

This dynamic and prolific artist has recorded nine cds as a bandleader. His critically acclaimed debut cd in 2004 *Forma Nueva* (MAVO) features John Patitucci, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez Bill Stewart and Seamus Blake. *Historia* (Fresh Sounds New Talent 2005), a jazz quartet with Antonio Sanchez, Seamus Blake and Ben Street. His third release *Melancolia* (MAVO 2006)—employs a string quartet incorporating world rhythms and classical concepts in the jazz idiom. *Vientos* (Anzic, 2007), representing a new working quartet, features bassist James Genus, drummer Ernesto Simpson, saxophonist Joel Frahm and a woodwind quartet. His fifth and trio recording *Currents* (MaxJazz 2009) features Ernesto Simpson and James Genus. His sixth recording *New Cuban Express* (MAVO) released in 2012 received a Grammy nomination, followed by *Expectativas* (MAVO 2013). His solo piano recording, *Self Portrait* (MAVO), released in June 2014 is already receiving national reviews. The most recent *New Cuban Express* recording *In Motion* was released on CrissCross in September 2014.

In addition, he has been awarded several grants for composition most notably Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works and the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award. Manuel has travelled the world performing in over 30 countries at some of the biggest international venues and festivals.



"... a superb ensemble."

—Jon Garelick, Downbeat

the trio Manuel Valera's Trio is comprised of three prominent like-minded musicians residing in New York: Pianist Manuel Valera, bassist Hans Glawischnig and drummer E.J. Strickland. This project is a refreshing take on the trio format. The music performed by the trio is deeply informed by trios of the past. It also has forward thinking view on where the trio setting is going. The repertoire of the trio is composed and arranged by Valera. The music is a mixture of straight ahead jazz with a hint of Cuban music as well as the occasional interpretations of jazz standards.

manuelvalera.com

booking queries

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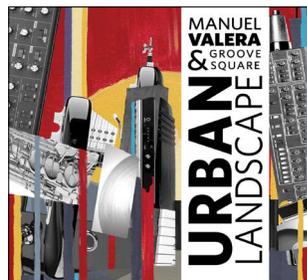
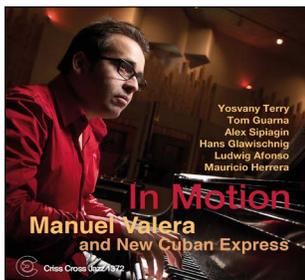
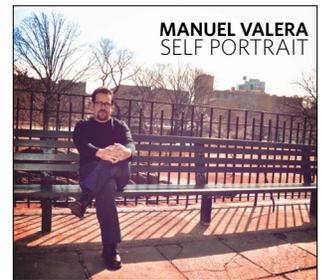
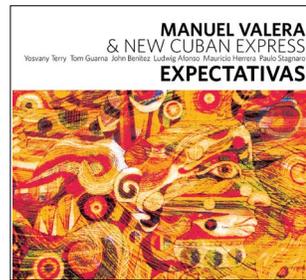
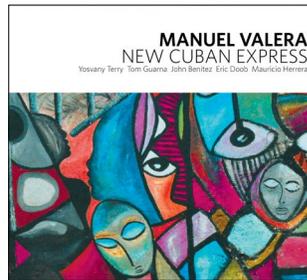


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a sampling of the latest recordings...

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—Philip Van Vleck, Billboard



CURRENTS Cuban pianist Manuel Valera is throwing his weight around the jazz scene and having an impact on several different levels. He’s a fine acoustic stylist but also a serious proponent of electric keys. He’s a rhythmic hyper-modernist (much like Dafnis Prieto and other innovating Latin jazz peers), but also a burner invested in the art of straight-ahead swinging. And last, he’s a viable bandleader honing his own voice, but also an active sideman who can function tastefully in any setting and leap out like a tiger as a soloist. —David Adler, All About Jazz

NEW CUBAN EXPRESS Valera is an extravagant musician, and his measure can perhaps be divined from his solo... From an ordered, classically derived motif to effusive two-handed flourishes to single-note lyricism to a pumping montuno, Valera sets the table for a charged ensemble workout. The group sound is full and animated... Even with a sextet, Valera sustains exciting simultaneous musical currents. —Kirk Silsbee, Downbeat

EXPECTATIVAS ...the project is a testament to Valera’s compositional talents and his vision for the future Latin Jazz... There’s no question that Manuel Valera’s Expectativas produces a unique and innovative sound sure to capture the attention of the most discerning jazz aficionado but, what may be surprising is, just how well this new musical experience will resonate with audiences everywhere. —Edward Blanco, All About Jazz

SELF PORTRAIT Mr. Valera put together a repertory that frames his approach to pianism, with careful nods to Bill Evans and Bud Powell, as well as the Cuban pianist and composer Eliseo Grenet. Mr. Valera has a beautifully limpid touch...the album’s illuminating moments are several improvisations dedicated to towering figures from the classical realm... —Nate Chinen, New York Times

IN MOTION Manuel Valera is one of the most generous of musicians...his music unfolds best in the collaborative effort that he has forged with this ensemble. His ability to arrive in the limelight and withdraw from it is generous. This is evident in most of the music here, but is especially gracious on “Descargando,” the profoundly beautiful “Bantu” and the epic “Storyteller,” which are just three of the defining tracks on this exquisite album. — Raul da Gama, Latinjazz Network

URBAN LANDSCAPE Acoustic and organic, Valera demonstrated is bona fides with mainstream jazz performance. Decidedly adult contemporary, Urban Landscape is exactly what it purports to be: an urban vision full of funk, groove, and habanera. — C. Michael Bailey, All About Jazz

manuelvalera.com for complete recording list and reviews