

THE ARTISTS OF MARKA

FREDDY CHAPELLIQUEN: Guitar, Zampona, Charango, Venezuelan Cuatro, Bombo and Lead vocals.

Born in Lima, Peru in 1962, he began studying the guitar at the age of twelve. He quickly became familiar with the popular music of Peru, as well as many musical styles of Latin America. Before arriving in the U.S., Freddy toured Guatemala and Honduras with the vanguard Andean group "Maicas", based in Guatemala City. Freddy pursued graduate work in communications at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He focused on the transmission of history and culture in preliterate indigenous societies. Founder and Director of the MarKamusic Ensemble, Freddy also enjoys his work as a producer and recording engineer. Recently, he produced and recorded four albums for Puerto Rican Guitarist and Virtuoso Cuatro player Jose Gonzalez on the Putumayo label, as well as three different albums for MarKamusic and one for Orquesta Komboloko.

AHMED GONZALEZ: Silver Flute, Quena, Congas, Bongos, Latin Percussion and Vocals.

Born in 1981 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he began studying the Flute at the age of nine, under the famed flutist Sue Kurian. Ahmed began professionally performing the flute, Latin percussion and back-up vocals at the age of fourteen with his father's band "Banda Criolla". He currently performs with José Gonzalez/Criollo Clásico and Orquesta Komboloko. Ahmed has recorded nine albums and toured Puerto Rico, Pennsylvania, New England and New York with the bands Criollo Clásico and MarKamusic. and is currently promoting his solo album, Flute Soul. He has also performed alongside: Giovanni Hidalgo, Antonio Caban Vale (El Topo) and famous folk singer Roy Brown.

RENE GONZALEZ: Electric Bass, Timbales, Congas, Bongos, Peruvian Cajon Vocals and Latin Percussion.

Rene Gonzalez has been a multi-percussionist, focusing on Afro-Cuban-Puerto Rican music styles since nine-years of age. Beginning studies on drums with his father at the age of six, Rene studied Rock and Funk. He began an early apprenticeship with noted Puerto Rican percussionist Freddie Moreno on Timbales, Bongos, Tumbadoras, and Latin percussion until the age of 24. He continued these studies with famed percussionist David "La Mole" Ortiz, percussionist Tito De Gracia, percussionist Victor "Papo" Sterling, and others. At the University of Massachusetts' Music Department, Rene studied straight-ahead and big band jazz with acclaimed percussionist Peter Tanner, and Berklee Drumset teacher, John Ramsay. Rene has performed alongside: Giovanni Hidalgo, Antonio Caban Vale (El Topo) folk singer Roy Brown, Cuatro player Eligio "Prodigio" Claudio and bassist Oscar Stagnaro.

SERGIO D'ORSINI: Electric Guitar, Spanish Classical Guitar, Percussion and Vocals.

Born in 1960 in Montevideo Uruguay, he began studying electric Guitar technique at the age of 8. Later he learned to play drum kit as his main instrument until the age of 16 when he began to play professionally. He currently performs with MarKamusic, Orquesta Komboloko and his own group. Although a versatile guitarist of most popular and traditional Latin American styles, Sergio is also acknowledged for his understanding of Latin Jazz, Jazz, Funk, rock and Pop music. He studied at the prestigious Sound Engineering School in Stuttgart, Germany, where he attained a recording engineering degree. After finishing his degree he went to tour all over Europe with his band Poster. Sergio worked with such Uruguayan greats as the brothers Fatoruso, Alfredo Zitarrosa, Los Olimareños and Ruben Rada and is renowned in his native Uruguay for having produced over 60 CDs for Sony Music, Polygram and BMG.

BRIAN BENDER: Trombone, Keyboards, Melodica, percussion and Vocals

Brian has a diverse musical background that includes Latin Jazz, Salsa, Merengue, World Beat, Klezmer, Jazz, Dixieland, Reggae, Samba, Calypso, Funk, Afrobeat, Celtic and other musical styles. He has performed in Egypt, Alaska, Israel, West Africa, Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Holland, the United Kingdom and throughout the United States. Brian has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Presidential Inauguration of Bill Clinton, the Knitting Factory (NYC) and many other festival and concert venues. Some of the groups that Brian has performed with: The Pangeans (World Beat), Black Rebels (African Reggae), The Wholesale Klezmer Band, Big Bandemonium (Celtic music), The Gumbo Jumbo Dixieland Band, Little Shop of Horas (Jewish-World Fusion) and The World Beatniks (World Beat)

IDOEL ORTIZ: Bass Guitar.

Idoel was Born in Puerto Rico, He began studying music from an early age and quickly took a liking to Hip Hop, Urban Jazz and Latin music. The bass became his instrument of choice. Idoel family moved from his native Puerto Rico to the United States when he was still very young. They decided to settle in Western Massachusetts, where he finished his schooling. Back in 1999 Idoel founded His own ensemble HPB with his friend Cesar Calderon. In recent years Idoel resides in western Mass and remains with his own group's musical director.

CESAR CALDERON: Drum set and Latin Percussion.

Born in 1986 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he began studying snare drum technique at the age of 6. Cesar began to play professionally, at the age of 16 (at the time performing on percussion). He currently performs with MarKamusic, HPB and the Sergio D'Orsini Group. Although a versatile drummer of most popular and traditional styles, Cesar is acknowledged for his understanding of Hip Hop, Urban Jazz and Afro-Caribbean drum set playing. Cesar has recorded 7 albums with various groups and two with MarKamusic.