



CHILAM-BALAM MUSIC

presents

DIEGO RAMIREZ

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Style

Diego Ramirez is an exciting young jazz pianist and Mexican composer, who has played throughout Mexico for years but only recently is being exposed to audiences and musicians outside his native country. At his Premiere US Performance at the Portland Jazz Festival, the critics recently described Diego as: "spectacular", with "pianistic brilliance and staggering creative energy", "remarkable", "virtuoso...with tempestuous improvisations driven by Mexican rhythms", "exciting...extraordinary...and full of passion"...he "simply mesmerized the audience." Diego touches his audiences, playing modern or traditional jazz standards, with Latin influenced melodies and rhythms, indigenous explorations, a wide variety of his own compositions, and memorable improvisations. Listening to Diego at the piano is always a beautiful experience.

Bio

Diego Ramirez Herrera was born May 21, 1973, in Mexico City, and at age five he began to take piano lessons. He studied for ten years at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City, classes in piano and classical music with Maestros Jose Luis Arcaz, Guillermo Salvador, and Christina de la Vega. But it was Maestra Irina Lieberman, from Czechoslovakia, who helped Diego develop his technique and musicality.

When Diego was twenty he had his first exposure to jazz and decided to become a jazz pianist and composer. By age twenty one he was playing jazz with the original "Diego Ramirez Trio" in Cancun. Diego's music and compositions are influenced by his admiration for Mexican classical composers Silvestre Revueltas, Manuel M. Ponce, and Carlos Chavez. He was also influenced by improvisational musicians such as Miles Davis, by Leonard Bernstein, but it was Mayan music which gave birth to his original compositions.

Diego Ramirez has participated in several jazz festivals: 2007 Portland Jazz Festival, LigaMAC Presents Jazz in San Jose del Cabo, International Jazz Festivals in Los Cabos and International Jazz Festivals in Cancun and Merida, as well as performances in clubs such as "A-Train" in Berlin and Herb Alpert's "Vibrato" in Los Angeles.



In reference to Ramirez's performance at PDX Jazz Festival: Diego Ramirez "demonstrated impeccable technique, a broad emotional and dynamic range, and an understanding of the jazz tradition." In reference to Diego Ramirez's composition "Eras", "From its tumultuous beginning to the more lamenting finish, it best demonstrated Ramirez's ability to traverse considerable territory, from a delicate touch to great power."

John Kelman
 (from All About Jazz online,
 February 25, 2007)

"Solo Pianist Diego Ramirez, in the country from Cabo, played his U.S. debut and simply mesmerized the audience. His skill and composing abilities are exciting and extraordinary, and full of passion. You'll be hearing a lot more from this young man."

Jazz USA online February 2007

In reference to the Los Cabos International Jazz Festival, "A remarkable young pianist.... His performance not only overwhelmed the audience, but Ms. (Regina) Carter invited him to join her on stage for an impromptu duet which turned into a late night jam session."

Portland Jazz Festival
 Artist Bios 2007

The festival introduced another new face in pianist Diego Ramirez, a self-taught virtuoso from Mexico who opened Allen's set with tempestuous improvisations driven by Mexican rhythms.

Paul de Barros
 (Seattle Times jazz critic)

Artist Web Site
www.diegoramirez.net



Online Press Kit
www.diegoramirez.net/press_kit.html