

# Curriculum Vitae

## David Chala

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## Professional Experiences

Born in Matanzas, Cuba, where the roots of Cuban Rumba music sprouted, David Chala, a versatile Cuban musician, has over 35 years of experiences in composing, arranging and producing music, conducting professional music performance worldwide.

Currently, David is touring with the “God of Songs”, Jacky Cheung, one of the “Four Heavenly Kings” Canto-pop star, as a percussionist on “A Classic Tour of Jacky Cheung”, yet another Guinness world record setting world tour concert. As one of Hong Kong most sought after percussionist, he played on countless concerts for famous canto-pop Kelly Chan, Justin Lo, Alex To, Maria Cordero, Teresa Carpio, Ellsa Chan, Kenny Bee, Liza Wang, Danny Summer, and Gigi Gu. With excellent level of versatility and ability to interpret and improvise musical parts in different musical styles and blend genres as a soloist, David was discovered and invited to join the world's renowned Cirque du Soleil as a starring percussionist at the "Alegria" show on a worldwide tour.

His professionalism and passion in Afro Cuban music lead him to create his debut Afro-Cuban music show, “An Afro-Cuban music Journey with David Chala”, a first of its kind in Hong Kong in 2013. Lead and train his band, Café Mezcaldo, and students in Hong Kong, featuring an Afro-Cuban Jazz quartet, showcasing Afro-Cuban drumming and rhythms. Being an advocator and ambassador of Afro –Cuban music, he has been collaborating with famous Latin band and musicians; including Jonny Polanco en Su Conjunto Amistad, one of the America’s popular salsa band; Mitch Frohman, Saxophonist who played for Tito Puente Orchestra & Latin Jazz Ensemble with famous soundtrack and TV program " Sex & the City", others like Chino Pons and Angel Yos, introducing different style of Latin music in Hong Kong.

Being an innovative artist as a record producer, arranger and composer, David collaborated with one of the famous band in Cuba, Manolito Simonet y su Trabuco” and a Singaporean Canto pop singer Gigi Gu’s 2014 album, re-arranging and recoding Canto pop songs with a Latin twist in Cuba. Dated back to 2005, David infused his Latin flavor in Canto pop songs dated back to 2005 when he composed, arranged, produced and record for one of the famous Canto pop Singer, Joyce Lee’s album “Fantasy” which became immensely popular, revitalizing the Canto-pop music scene in Hong Kong and further afield.

With his exceptional passion in Latin music, David has gotten beyond his career as a performer. Establishing his own Music School, MusicToss in 2008, he is the pioneer in bringing the education of Latin Musicality to Hong Kong, by emphasizing his distinctive insight on “music before dance” benefiting dancers and music lovers to understand and appreciate Latin music which enhance their experience on dancing and learning Afro- Cuban percussion. His inspirations and contributions in Afro Cuban musicality education is well received and was invited by the University of Philippines, College of Music to teach on Afro Cuban music history, its evolution and conducted percussion clinics. To provide education even further, David started to host the world first and ever Latin Music program at "Our Radio" in HK explaining the root of Cuban music and different Latin music style, its history to its influence in the transformation of different music style and dance. Being innovative, David creates an unique percussion jamming circle to train people to be rhythmic and allow engagement which are widely received by students and corporate events.

Honed his skills from Provincial School of Art in Matanzas in his young age, his passion in music had earned him an important position as musical instructor for Afro-Cuban percussion for the Casa de Cultura, the Cultural Centre of Art. Discovered his talent as Cuban Pianist or Keyboardist was the famous agency of Artistas de Cuba – Benny Moré in Havana, David began his professional career in arranging, composing and performing Afro-Cuban music since early 1990s. became musical director of "Grupo Ritmo Joven"; an arranger, composer and performer for "Alfonso Llorens y su Dinamica", an international touring Cuban band based in Varadero Cuba. In 2000, David formed "Sonido Cubano", a Latin band that performed on various TV shows and Latin American festivals in

*David Chala*

Canada. His talent provides him with the opportunity to work with Latin bands across Asia including Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Shanghai, Macau and Hong Kong during 2003-2005.

As an artist, a performer and an educator, David's musical talents and his pleasant personality has given him great ovation from audiences, students, producers and event organizers who have seen and worked with him over the years.

## **Professional Education**

Sept 1986 – June 1990 Diploma of Professor in Percussion. *Conservatory Amadeo Roldan Habana Cuba como Tecnica y profesional in diploma de Instrumentista-Profesor de Percussion y Practica de Conjunto*

## **Career Development**

### **2022**

- \* ***Percussionist*** Performing on a world tour with Joey Jung - The Tour - Love in Canada, Vancouver & Toronto
- \* ***Percussionist*** at Freespace Jazz Fest with Joyce Cheung – Jazzical Collection Band
- \* ***Percussionist*** for Andrew Tuason Big Jazz Band performing at Concert Hall. Hong Kong City Hall. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

### **2021**

- \* ***Percussionist*** at Uncle Ray 2021 Farewell Concert with Andrew Tuason and his Big Band Teresa Carpio (杜麗莎), Danny Summer (夏昭聲), Anthony Lun (倫永亮), Elisa Chan (陳潔靈) Maria Cordero (瑪俐亞), William So (蘇永康), Johnny Yip (葉振棠), Albert Au (區瑞強) Rowena Cortes (露雲娜), Krystal Diaz, Christine Samson
- \* ***Performing***, Arranging and Orchestrated for the song "Under The Sea " in Latin Jazz Fusion style for the Jazz Friends Orchestra and the Hong Kong Fusion Chamber concert
- \* Interview for RTHK Radio about Cuban music genres as Son and Cha Cha Cha
- \* Interview for HK Cable TV about Cuban and Latin America Contemporary Music, Chinese Culture
- \* Interview for RTHK Radio station about Cuban and Latin American Musicians in Hong Kong

### **2020**

- \* ***Performing at HK TVB Music show 流行經典 50 年 with Canto Pop singer Joyce Lee***
- \* Arranging and Programming Music for HK TVB Music Show
- \* Interview for HK Cable TV about Cuban Music and Culture

### **2019**

- \* ***Percussionist working on a World Tour with Hong Kong Canto Pop Singer Jacky Cheung – A Classic Tour – Finalized the Tour on January 2019 with 233 shows done.***
- \* ***Percussionist working on a World Tour with a Hong Kong Canto Pop Singer and Actor Andy Lau – My Love Tour***
- \* Producing and arranging Music for the canto pop singer Kris Lou – Shining Vibe Album

### **2018**

- \* ***Percussionist working on a World Tour with Jacky Cheung – Hong Kong Canto Pop Singer - A Classic Tour***
- \* Conduct an Afro – Cuban Musical Workshop Clinic Presentation at ESF South Island School



## 2017

### \* *Percussionist* working on a World Tour with Hong Kong Canto Pop singer Jacky Cheung – A Classic Tour

\* Producing and arranging Music for the canto pop Artist Alex To

\* Production Music for the Taiwanese singer David Tao

\*Arranging and Production for the Hong Kong Legendary singer Frances Yip on her Latest Album 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (SACD)

## 2016

### *Percussionist*

#### Jacky Cheung – Hong Kong Canto Pop singer - A Classic World Tour Concerts

## 2016

- Conduct an Afro – Cuban Musical Workshop at UP College Of Music University of the Philippines
- Performing at Macau Cotai Arena for The Voice of the Legends Concert
- Performing for a Local Artist Canto Pop HK Celebrities Concerts.
- Maria Cordero Friendship Forever 30th Anniversary Concert

## 2015

- Performing as especial guest and Collaborate as Arranger at HK Musicians Union Concert
- Performing for Local Artist and Canto Pop HK Celebrities Concerts
- Kelly Chen Let's Celebrate Concert
- Performer as Special Guest and Arranging Musical songs for Hong Kong Musicians Union Concert
- Justin Lo We Touch Concert
- Alex To My Virtual Planet II Concert
- Debut with Mitch Frohman at SEVVA
- Band Leader as a back up band in HK to play with the renowned saxophonist, Mr. Mitch Frohman, who played with Tito Puente for 25 years and also be the sax solo in the " Sex and the City " TV/ Movie theme

## 2014

- Alex To - My Virtual Planet I Concert
- Arranging and Producing an Album in Cuba for a Singaporean and Chinese Canto Pop Gigi Gu Xing Yun – In Cuba
- Conduct Afro Cuban Workshop - Percussion Afro-Cuban: *A Journey Trough the History of Afro-Cuban Music and Rhythms* at UP College of Music University of the Philippines for the department of Musicology – Feb 24th
- Conduct an Afro Cuban and Latin Music Workshop at YMCA of Hong Kong Christian Collage School
- Conduct of Afro Cuban Music and Culture Workshop at Hong Kong Island School
- Former member of Orbita Afro Cuban Jazz Band in HK and working as Pianist Composer and Arranger

## 2013

- Cirque du Soeil - Alegria Arena World Tour - 2013 July - Dec
- Gigi Gu Charity Concert Hong Kong June 2013
- Free space - 2013 - Perform with African Drumming & Dance Connection
- A Musical Journey to Afro Cuban Roots Concert with David Chala and MusicToss Students - 2013 May 16th
- Hong Kong Salsa Festival 2013 - Feb - Afro Cuban Percussion with Alberto Romay + Lead the MusicToss student group to perform at the Avenue of Star
- Formed Caffé Mezclado Band in HK

## 2012

- Lead the first MusicToss Student group to perform at Xperience, Wan Chai - Oct 2012
- 2012 -- Start the first Afro - Cuban Music Radio program at " OurRadio.com"
- Clockenflap - Perform with African Drumming & Dance Connection 2012
- Hong Kong Salsa Festival 2012 - Feb - Afro Cuban Percussion Soloist



## 2011

- Cirque Du Soleil Alegria Arena World Tour - 2011 Full year

## 2010

- Establish MusicToss / Casa De La Musica

## 2009

- Musical Moments - 2009 - Afro-Cuban percussion performance with Orlando To
- Performing in Vietnam at Cuban Cigar Festival with Havana Revolution band

## 2007

- Performing as special guest as Keyboardist Vocalist and Arranger with Dizzy Jazz band in Taiwan

## 2006

- Create Salsa / Latin Musicality class for students to learn Latin rhythm and percussion
- Appointed music consultant, percussionist for Hong Kong Salsa Festival 2006

## Oct 2005 – Jan 2006

- Keyboard and vocalist at Totts at the Excelsior Hotel in Hong Kong.
- Music Producer for Joyce Lee's album "Fantasy"
- Invited by famous Savage Garden club in Dubai, performed on keyboard and as a vocalist with band Larrayan

## 2004

- Performed as Percussionist and Arranged with Azucar Latina Band in HK
- Performed on keyboard with Elixir, the American Jazz and R+B Band, in Park'97 in Shanghai for the Lan Kwai Fong Shanghai group
- Performed on keyboard and percussion with an International band, Johnny Polanco and conjunto amistad in Hong Kong Salsa Festival 2004

## From 2000 to 2003

### *Formed and led band Sonido Cubano*

\* Produced album Sonido Cubano | Afro-Cuban Rhythms in Toronto Canada in 2000

\* Performed for various occasions. Such as the Beaches International Jazz Festival; the Canadian National Exhibition; the National television program Christine Cushing Live; Toronto Caribana parade festival; Toronto Roger Centre Baseball Stadium; Ontario Place; Toronto Fiesta; Corso Italia festival; and in several commercial venues and corporate events including the Hotel Intercontinental Toronto, Woodbine Racetrack and Casino, Bacardi, Bambu-by-the-Lake and Rogers Cable TV.

***Founder and band leader of Quimica Perfecta.*** Played keyboards and background vocal for performance of contemporary Latin music and traditional Afro-Cuban rhythms such as Salsa, Merengue, Cha Cha Cha, Cumbia, Traditional Son, Bolero, Bachata, Timba, Latin Jazz etc.

## From 1979 – 2000

- At age of 9 former member of a Marching Band of Antonio Briones Montoto Primary school and acted as a Music conductor for the band Participate in numerous festivals
- At Age of 10 former member of infant Musical group los Crilollitos of Casa De La Cultura Aniseto Dias in Marti , Matanzas Cuba
- At age of 14 former member of group Abdala of Casa De La Cultura in Matanzas City and performed in numerous festivals including the International Festival ( Por Un Mundo Sin Final ) in Havana and participate and several TV shows like (Palmas y Cana )
- Acted as Musical Instructor of Afro-Cuban percussion for the Casa de Cultura in Matanzas, Cuban for the aged between 14 and 17.
- Professional performances with the famous agency - Artistas de Cuba – Benny Moré of Havana for Tropical fiesta and Popular Carnival in all regions in Cuba.

*David Chale*

- Acted as Musical and General Director of Grupo Ritmo Joven which played contemporary Cuban music and commercial Latino rhythms for 5-star hotels in Playa Giron and Varadero in Cuba.
  - \* Arranged and composed music for Alfonso Llorens y su Dinamica, an international touring Cuban band based in Varadero in Cuba in late 1990's. Performed on keyboard with the band.
  - \* Music producer and arrangement for Alfonso Llorens y su Dinamica in the album of Fuego Cubano
  - \* Volunteering to conduct music classes for kids in school Guerrillero Heroico for mentally disordered kids in Matanzas, Cuba

## **Awards**

At the age of 9, his band *Los Criollitos de Manatanzas* won the championship in *Que Siempre Brille el Sol*, a TV music show for kids in Cuba.