



## Mike Freeman ZonaVibe

(click title above for website bio link)

With spirited soulful swing rooted in Afro-Cuban clave, Freeman creates a distinct brand of vibraphone-centric mambo- and salsa-inspired jazz-Latin-blues.

Dan McClaneghan of Allaboutjazz described him as "masterful" and ranked among other top names of the instrument. Freeman's performances have taken him from North America and Europe to the Azores, Caribbean, and South America. His recordings of original music include tributes to Cal Tjader, Tito Puente, and NEA Jazz Master Bobby Hutcherson. Freeman's recordings have received extensive radio airplay, charting on jazz, contemporary jazz, and World Music radio.

**Freeman** is a Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) Creative Engagement grant recipient for Boricua Blues; Hell's Kitchen Soul Sauce; and Latin Music in Hell's Kitchen, A History. Performances included legendary guests Ray Mantilla and Jose Mangual Jr. at the Times Center, the Highline, Pier 84, and Riverbank State Park in NYC. The concert productions highlighted the once-thriving Latin music record businesses that dotted the landscape on 10th Avenue in Manhattan from 42nd Street to 57th Street in Freeman's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood.

**Other endeavors** include a two decade-long series of commissioned compositions and arrangements for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Percussion Scholarship Program and arrangements for a national percussion curriculum for China that were performed by members of the Shanghai Symphony at Shanghai Symphony Hall.

**Freeman is also known** for his work and recordings with several acclaimed Latin groups including Ray Mantilla, Jose Mangual Jr's Son Boricua with Jimmy Sabater (an architect of boogaloo), Lucho Cueto's All-star Black Sugar, Julio Salgado, and Willie Villegas' Joe Cuba Sextet.

MIKE FREEMAN (917) 680-0026 MIKE@JAZZVIBE.COM  
[WWW.JAZZVIBE.COM](http://WWW.JAZZVIBE.COM)



# Quick Facts:

(click title above for website link)

## Mike Freeman

Musician \* Composer \* Bandleader \* Recording Artist \* Producer \* Arranger \* Educator

### Recordings

Eight recordings as a leader that include seventy original compositions, with tributes to Cal Tjader, Tito Puente, and Bobby Hutcherson. His recordings have appeared on numerous radio charts, syndicated radio programs (WOR radio network, Jazz after Hours, David Sanborn, Music Choice, United Airlines), receiving numerous outstanding reviews.

### Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Creative Engagement grant recipient

Produced *Boricua Blues*, *Hell's Kitchen Soul Sauce* and *Latin Music In Hell's Kitchen, A History* with guest legends Ray Mantilla and Jose Mangual Jr. performing at the Times Center, the Highline, Pier 84, and Riverbank State Park in NYC

### Groups:

- ★ Mike Freeman ZonaVibe
- ★ Mike Freeman Vibe Caliente
- ★ Mike Freeman & Spellbound®

### Associated groups:

- ★ Metropolitan Jazz Octet
- ★ Ray Mantilla Good Vibrations Band, Tres Amigos, Space Station
- ★ Son Boricua with Jose Mangual Jr., Jimmy Sabater (an architect of Boogaloo)
- ★ Lucho Cueto (Allstar) Black Sugar
- ★ Mark Holen Zambomba
- ★ Julio Salgado
- ★ Willie Villegas' Joe Cuba Sextet
- ★ Timba Vibes

### Based in New York City since 1981

◆ Artist/Clinician Balter/Vic Firth Mallets and formerly Musser Instrument Company

Commissioned composer and Arranger, Concert Producer

Clinics/Masterclasses/Residencies

**Studio sessions for** Kirsten Thien; The Manhattan Transfer *Swing*, Atlantic Records; Don Sebesky Foxwoods, *The Wonder of It All*, featuring John Pizzarelli Jr; Broadway stars Stephanie Pope, *Now's the Time to Fall in Love*, and Capathia Jenkins with Lou Rosen, *South Side Stories*; and Hale Rood among others.

**Performed** with legendary sonero Cheo Feliciano and the Spanish Harlem Orchestra at Madison Square Garden, and with Willie Villegas Joe Cuba Sextet at NJ Salsa Congress; Latin Legends Tribute Concert at Aaron Davis Hall with Louis Bauz6; Cuban Fantasy at Weill Hall with Kathleen Landis

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# Mike Freeman Discography

(click title above for website link)

Mike Freeman ZonaVibe - Circles In A Yellow Room

Mike Freeman ZonaVibe - Venetian Blinds

Mike Freeman ZonaVibe - Blue Tjade

Mike Freeman ZonaVibe - The Vibesman

Mike Freeman ZonaVibe - In The Zone

Mike Freeman - Wiggle Stomp

Mike Freeman & Spellound Street Shuffle

Mike Freeman & Spellound



## Mike Freeman ZonaVibe Music

[Bandcamp](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Spotify](#)

[Apple Music](#)

[Amazon](#)

## Recording Session Video

[Cool My Curry Down](#)

[Cascade](#)

[Pendulum](#)

# Live Performance Video

(click photo for link to youtube video)



# Photos

(click any photo for link to hi-res download)





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# Reviews/Interviews:

(click title above for website links to full reviews)

## Press Quotes:

"...Freeman is wildly talented on the vibraphone" –Mike Greenblatt, Classicalite

"Swinging sounds that are reminiscent of vintage Cal Tjader sessions...irresistible grooves. Oye!" Jazz Weekly –George Harris

"Latin jazz doesn't get any better than this" Allaboutjazz –Mark Sullivan

"Freeman's a formidable composer", "Cool My Curry Down is a funky gem" Jazz Journal – Brian Morton

"The Soul of Cal Tjader Smiles" Jazz Caribe –Luis Raul

"Freeman is not only carrying on the Latin jazz vibe tradition, but is also bringing his unique voice and substantial contribution to the genre." Percussive Notes, Percussive Arts Society (PAS) –Jeff Moore

"an intoxicating Latin Jazz gem" Latinjazz Corner, –Chip Boaz

## Audience Quotes:

### Times Center, NYC, 2019

"Great music and a history lesson too!"

"My friends and I were blown away by your concert tonight"

"Congratulations on a well conceived and executed project"

"That was Fantastic."

### Fox Jazz Festival, WI, 2018

"At first I was thinking where's the piano player. But as soon as you started playing I realized you don't need one, and the listener doesn't miss it! I've never heard a vibe player playing piano montunos. Everything was so together, that was fantastic!"

# Mike Freeman Performance Highlights

White Plains Jazz Festival, 2023  
Riverbank State Park 2022  
The Highline NYC, 2021, 2022  
Hudson River Parks Trust Concert Series Pier 84 NYC - 2019, 2021  
Fox Jazz Festival, Menasha, WI - 2018  
Riverfront Jazz Festival, Stevens Point, WI - 2018  
Jazz Forum Arts Summer Concerts, Dobbs Ferry, NY - 2016  
Third Street Music Series - 2008, 2013, 2016, 2018  
Jazz on the Vine, Long Island, - 2013  
Islip Jazz Fest, Long Island - 2011  
Harlem Meer, Central Park New York City - 2008  
Trinidad & Tobago Steelpan & Jazz Festival - 2008  
Festival Internacional, Terceira, Azores - 2007  
Jazz on the Green, Omaha, NE - 2002

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## 1990's

First Night Celebrations (Numerous in the Northeast)  
Rehoboth Beach, DE, Jazz Festival - 1997  
Berks Jazz Festival, Reading, PA, - 1997  
IAJE International Convention, Atlanta - 1996

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## 1980's:

JVC Newport Jazz Festival, Saratoga, NY - 1989  
Hennessy Greenwich Village Jazz Festival - 1987 & 1988  
Musikfest, Bethlehem, PA - 1987  
Mayfair, Allentown, PA - 1987  
NJ State Aquarium's Jazzin the Deep Festival, Philadelphia, PA - 1992  
Penn Sate University Tour - 1992  
Toured Portugal on grants from the Fulbright Foundation and the American Embassy (USIA) - 1985

Numerous other festivals as a sideman



## Band Members:

Mike Freeman - Vibraphone  
Ivan Renta - Saxophone  
Ruben Rodriguez - Bass  
Roberto Quintero - Congas  
Joel Mateo - Drums  
Luis Soto - Guiro, Bongo, Bell

## Guests:

Jim Gailloreto - Tenor Sax  
Jose Mangual Jr - Vocal  
Jeff Jenkins - Piano

## Mike Freeman Social Media:

[Youtube](#) [Twitter](#) [Linkedin](#) [Facebook](#)

[Facebook Page1](#) [Facebook Page 2](#) [Instagram](#)

