

## **Jere Laukkanen Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra**

was founded 1996 in Helsinki, Finland. The line-up saw its beginning when composer-arranger-conductor **Jere Laukkanen** and lead trumpet player **Sami Poyhonen**, two professional musicians dedicating their free time to Afro-Cuban music, decided to form a jazz orchestra, which could act as a "second home" for all the professional musicians of a like mind. They managed to gather all the best Finnish players reinforced with one Cuban top musician now residing in Finland — and this is how the 21-piece **Jere Laukkanen Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra** was born.

The principal idea of the orchestra is to utilize this multi-cultural collision by creating totally new music, which would bring the best qualities of modern North European jazz and contemporary Afro-Cuban rhythms together. The recipe of mixing big band jazz and Cuban music together is already known and proven to be efficient, names like **Dizzy Gillespie**, **Machito** and **Tito Puente** come to mind, but no truly new spices have been added since the '50s. Now it's time to cook with new ingredients: both the music of large jazz orchestras and the Afro-Cuban rhythmic concepts have gone through tremendous evolution during the recent decades, and — imagine — what kind of exciting flavours could this new combination of seasonings offer, especially when served from this northern origin!

The orchestra has performed e.g. at the **Arabian Nights** -festival and at the **Helsinki Festival** (Helsinki, Finland), at the **Imatra Big Band Festival** and as the main musical attraction at the **Kuopio Song and Dance Festival** in Finland. The orchestra also has two appearances in the music program series **Jazz Goes...**, made for the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE 1.

### **New record out!**

*Jere Laukkanen's Finnish Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra* (HNH/Naxos Jazz 86056-2) has been released worldwide in October 2000: a full hour of music, which, without any hesitation, can be described as "Afro-Cuban jazz defined anew". Read more from

<http://www.jerelaukkanen.com>.

**Line-up (subject to alteration):**

*Composer/arranger/conductor:*  
Jere Laukkanen

*Orchestras/groups/performances:*  
As a guest conductor with SBB Jazz Orchestra, UMO Jazz Orchestra, Estonian Dream Big Band, Mario Grillo (Machito Orchestra, USA), Rebeca Mauleón (USA), a.o.

*Saxophones and woodwinds:*

Pekka Pylkkänen  
Ari Jokelainen  
Yoel Terry  
Olli Ojajarvi  
Janne Murto

Pekka's Tube Factory, Big Bad Family, Fiestecita  
Pori Jazz Festival Artist Of The Year 1999, Unit 6  
Perspectiva (Arturo Sandoval, Cuba), Los Terrys (Cuba)  
UMO Jazz Orchestra, SoSo  
UMO, Saxperiment

*Trumpets and fluegelhorns:*

Sami Poyhonen, Concert Master

Mikko Pettinen  
Teemu Mattsson  
Tero Saarti

UMO, Conjunto Chappottin (Cuba), EBB, Rebecca Mauleón-Santana (USA), Helsinki City Theatre  
UMO Jazz Orchestra, MP4  
UMO Jazz Orchestra  
UMO Jazz Orchestra, Groove Convention

*Trombones:*

Matti Lappalainen  
Vesa-Matti Mattsson  
Mikko Mustonen (+tuba)  
Mikael Langbacka

UMO, Avanti, Helsinki City Theatre, EBB, Fiestecita  
UMO Jazz Orchestra, Helsinki City Theatre  
UMO, Honey B. Blues & Roots, Brassholes  
UMO Jazz Orchestra, Helsinki City Theatre

*Rhythm section:*

Lenni-Kalle Taipale (pno, synth)  
Markku Martikainen (gtr)  
Timo "Unski" Salmi (bass)  
Jari "Kepa" Kettunen (drs)  
Ricardo Padilla (perc)  
Sami Lehto (perc)  
Mika Rytönen (perc)

Lenni-Kalle Taipale Trio, EBB, Joonas Hytonen TV-Show  
Phil Wilson Big Band, Natalie Cole  
Fiestecita, Big Bad Family  
Wigwam, Rio Herné  
El Septeto, UMO Jazz Orchestra  
Tumbao Picante  
El Septeto

**Contact:**

Conductor Jere Laukkanen  
Eskimo Music T:mi  
P.O. Box 18  
FIN-00601 Helsinki FINLAND  
Tel. +358-9-7571001  
Email: [eskimomusic@jerelaukkanen.com](mailto:eskimomusic@jerelaukkanen.com)  
<http://www.jerelaukkanen.com>