

Pepe González **(Acoustic and Electric Bass)**

Pepe started his music career playing the electric bass in his late teens, when he formed one of the first integrated bands (between African-Americans and Hispanics) in the Washington, DC area. The band, **ZAPATA**, opened for many great bands such as Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, Ramsey Lewis, Weather Report, Rashan Roland Kirk, Sly and the Family Stone, and the Isley Brothers. **ZAPATA** became one of the top bands in the Mid-Atlantic region, receiving great acclaim by the media and the audience alike.

In his early twenties, Pepe became inspired by the virtuosic bass sounds of Paul Chambers and Charles Mingus. For the past 35 years, he has studied the jazz idioms along with the African influenced styles, while maintaining a career in classical music as well.

Performing largely within the jazz idiom, Pepe has performed locally with Maria Rodriguez and her Latin Jazz Orchestra, the Smithsonian Institute for Tito Puente and was featured with his own Latin Jazz band, **Sonora Del Barrio** at the Kennedy Center. He performed Dave Brubeck's "*Pange Lingua Variations*" under Donald McCullough at the Kennedy Center and "Schubert's *TROUT*" with senior players at the Corcoran Art Gallery.

Performing largely within the jazz idiom, Pepe has had the pleasure performing and recording with many national and international icons such as, Pepper Adams, Clifford Jordan, Slide Hampton, Dave Valentin, Bryon Morris, Hilton Ruiz, Paul Hawkins, Jeannie Bryson, Sheila Jordan, Dorothy Donegan, Carter Jefferson, Clark Terry, Malachi Thompson, Bill Hardman, Junior Cook, Giacomo Gates, Delfaeyo Marsalis, Horacio Icasto, and many others.

Pepe has performed for U.S. Presidents George Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, the United Nation President Kufi Anan, and Vice President Al Gore. He has played at the (IAJE) International Association of Jazz Educators, the Blue Note and the Jazz Times Convention all in New York City. He has played the Caribbean, Spain, France, Greece, Italy and the Soviet Union. Festivals include Curacao Jazz Festival, San Remo Festival, East Coast Jazz Festivals II thru X, Syracuse Jazz Festival, Atlanta Jazz Festival, San Antonio Jazz Festival, Harrisburg Jazz Festival, and the Cape May Festivals 1996 – 98 and 2000.

Pepe has been on over 30 recordings and he recently recorded his first CD entitled, "**Looking Back.**" The CD includes nine original compositions dedicated to family, mentors and heroes.

Presently Pepe is the Assistant Director of the Jazz Academy under the Director Paul Carr. He teaches Jazz Bass and Jazz Studies at the Levine of Music and is also a clinician around the Mid-Atlantic Region.