



Mike Freeman ZonaVibe

(click title above for website bio link)

From Omaha, to Chicago, to Hell's Kitchen NYC, Mike Freeman is the vibesman behind several notable groups and leader of ZonaVibe.

With spirited soulful swing rooted in Afro-Cuban clave, Freeman creates a distinct brand of **mambo and salsa inspired jazz-Latin-blues**. Dan McClaneghan of Allaboutjazz described him as "masterful" and ranked him among other top names of the instrument. His performances have taken him from North America and Europe to the Azores, Caribbean, and South America. Freeman's recordings of original music have received national and international attention with outstanding reviews, radio airplay charting on jazz, contemporary jazz, and World Music radio, and airing on nationally syndicated radio shows (Latin Perspective with Tony Vasquez, Jazz after Hours with Jim Wilke, The Jazz Show with David Sanborn, WOR radio network with Joey Reynolds, Music Choice, and United Airlines).

Freeman is a four-time **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) Creative Engagement** grant recipient for Hell's Kitchen Vibe-Centric; Boricua Blues; Hell's Kitchen Soul Sauce; and Latin Music in Hell's Kitchen. 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 in Freeman's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan, the tradition of vibraphone in Latin music, and his original music born from that tradition.

Commissioned work includes a series of 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 groups including the legendary 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



Live Performance Video

(click photo for link to youtube video)



Photos

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





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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

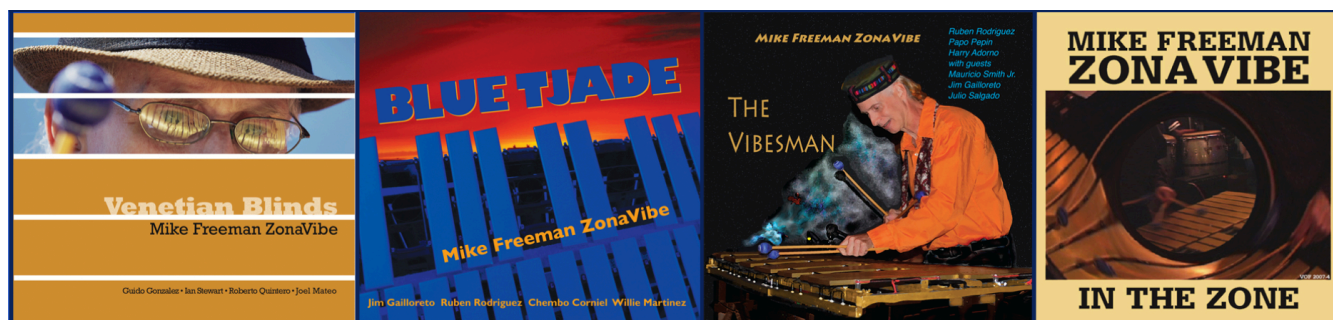
Mike Freeman ZonaVibe - The Vibesman

Mike Freeman ZonaVibe - In The Zone

Mike Freeman - Wiggle Stomp

Mike Freeman & Spellbound Street Shuffle

Mike Freeman & Spellbound



Music Links

Bandcamp

Soundcloud

YouTube

Spotify

Apple Music

Amazon

Recording Session Video

Cool My Curry Down

Cascade

Pendulum

Quick Facts:

(click title above for website link)

Mike Freeman

Vibraphonist Composer Bandleader Recording Artist Producer Educator Arts Advocate

Recordings

Eight recordings as a leader that include seventy original compositions that charted on jazz, contemporary jazz and world music radio, aired on nationally syndicated radio programs (Latin Perspective with Tony Vasquez, Jazz after Hours with Jim Wilke, The Jazz Show with David Sanborn, Joey Reynolds WOR radio network, Music Choice, United Airlines), and received outstanding reviews.

Four time Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Creative Engagement grantee. 2025 Hell's Kitchen Vibe-centric. Past productions *Boricua Blues*, *Hell's Kitchen Soul Sauce* and *Latin Music In Hell's Kitchen* with guest legends Ray Mantilla and Jose Mangual Jr. Performances at the Times Center, 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 Bauzó; Cuban Fantasy at Weill Hall with Kathleen Landis

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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

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

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
Guest - Saxophone
Ruben Rodriquez - Bass
Roberto Quintero - Congas
Joel Mateo - Drums
Oreste Abrantes - Guiro, Bongo, Bell

Guests:

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

Social Media:

[Youtube](#) [Bluesky](#) [Linkedin](#) [Instagram](#) [Myspace](#) [Threads](#)
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