



BG

BENITO GONZALEZ

ARTISTIC DOSSIER



BENITO GONZALEZ

BIOGRAPHY

Born into a family of Venezuelan folk musicians, jazz pianist Benito Gonzalez has always had a deep-rooted appreciation for pastimes and traditions. Today, as a rising star of one of America's finest musical traditions, Gonzalez has come to his current status by following in the footsteps of jazz's ancestral forebears. The fusion of world rhythms and straight-ahead jazz makes this passionate performer an audience favorite all over the world.

“Gonzalez has a golden touch on the piano, whether he's playing a ballad or swinging for the fences.”

the JazzPage

Benito Gonzalez is being recognized as an exciting pianist and composer for his well-received debut album 'Starting Point' (Christian McBride, Antonio Sanchez, Rene McLean, Ron Blake) in addition to taking home first prize at the Great American Jazz Piano Competition.

Benito's acclaimed sophomore album, 'Circles' (Ron Blake, Myron Walden, Azar Lawrence, Christian McBride, Jeff "Tain" Watts), reveals a very personal body of work as he emerges as a leader and an accomplished improviser. Recently, Benito received more critical attention for his work on Garrett's Grammy-Nominated album 'Seeds from the Underground'.

“Gonzalez proves he can handle just about anything thrown his musical way.”

KeyboardMag

After almost seven years of touring with Kenny Garrett, Benito has added numerous festivals and international jazz club dates to his credit. He has also shared the stage with Curtis Fuller, Pharaoh Sanders, Bobby Hutcherson, Christian McBride, Ignacio Berroa, Roy Hargrove, Rene McLean, Steve Turre, Delfeayo Marsalis, Hamiet Bluiett, Antonio Sanchez, T.K. Blue, Nicholas Payton, Azar Lawrence, and Jackie McLean.

“Gonzalez flashes killer chops and swings intensely alongside his world-class bandmates”

Blues & Soul

His multi-cultural talents have led to frequent recording dates, from American jazz masters such as Kenny Garrett and Azar Lawrence, to West African musicians and Latin bands. Benito has also served as musical director for several Venezuelan Recording Artists.

Presently, Benito is touring the world with numerous jazz clubs and international festivals to his credit, including several extensive tours of Europe as leader of his own Benito Gonzalez Trio.

“...Benito Gonzalez. Remember that name. A future star.”

Blues & Soul



STARTING POINT

2004 Debut album Starting Point.
feat: Christian McBride, Antonio Sanchez, Ron Blake, Rene Mclean, Pernell Saturnino.



CIRCLES

Benito Gonzalez new album "Circles"
Christian McBride bass
Jeff "Tain" Watts drums
Myron Walden alto sax
Azar Lawrence tenor sax
Ron Blake tenor and soprano sax.



DREAM RHAPSODY

Benito Gonzalez and European composer Sisa Michalidesova co-leading album "Dream Rhapsody" 2016



PASSION REVERENCE TRANSCENDENCE

The title says it all. Pianist Benito Gonzalez, drummer Gerry Gibbs and bassist Essiet Okon Essiet assemble to tackle the music of McCoy Tyner. The result is a beautifully played, unequivocal triumph of sound and spirit. 2018

DISCOGRAPHY





PASSION
REVERENCE
TRANSCENDENCE

benito
gonzalez
gerry
gibbs
essiet okon
essiet

the music of **McCoy Tyner**

NEW ALBUM

THE BAND

Benito Gonzalez / Piano

Gerry Gibbs / drums, percussion, voices

Essiet Okon Essiet / bass

Play the music of
McCoy Tyner



01 FLY WITH THE WIND

02 JUST FEELIN'

03 ROTUNDA

04 FESTIVAL IN BAHIA

05 BLUES ON THE CORNER

06 THE GREETING

07 YOU TAUGHT MY HEART TO SING

08 ATLANTIS

09 INNER GLIMPSE

10 NAIMA (SOLO PIANO)

11 TYNER/TRANE EXPRESS

12 BETWEEN FRIENDS

13 BRAZILIAN GIRLS





GRAMMY
AWARDS



Two times Grammy Nominated with
the Kenny Garret Quartet, “Seeds
from the underground 2012 and Pus-
hing the World away 2014





NOMINATED
GRAMMY AWARD



KENNY GARRETT

Pushing the World Away
Company:
Genre: Jazz
Release Year: 2013

Feat:
Kenny Garrett sax
Benito Gonzalez piano
Corcoran Holt bass
Marcus Baylor drums
Rudy Bird percussion

NOMINATED
GRAMMY AWARD



KENNY GARRETT

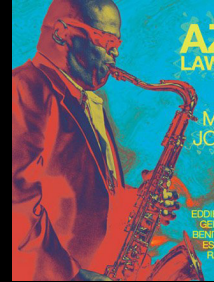
Seeds from the Underground
Company: Mack Avenue records
Genre: Jazz
Release Year: 2012

Feat:
Nat Reeves bass
Ronald Brunner drums
Benito Gonzalez piano
Kenny Garrett sax
and many special guests.
Released:march 18 2012

KENNY GARRETT

Sketches of MD 2008
Company: Mack Avenue
Records
Genre: Jazz
Release Year:2008

Feat:
Kenny Garrett sax
Jamire williams drums
Nat Reeves bass
Benito Gonzalez piano
Pharoah Sanders tenor s



AZAR LAWRENCE

Elementals
Company:
Genre: Jazz
Release Year:2018

Feat:
Azar Lawrence Soprano & tenor saxophones
Benito Gonzales Keyboards
Jeff Littleton Bass
Marvin "Smitty" Smith Drums
Munyungo Jackson Percussion
with Oren Waters, John Barnes, Greg Poree,
Mayuto Correa & Joe Blocke.



Antonio Parker
Steppin' Out
Live @ HR-57



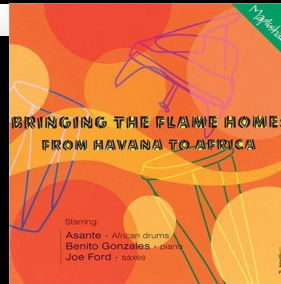
Featuring:
Kenny Garrett
Benito Gonzalez
Zack Price
John Lamb

Alreign Records



OKEYREMA ASANTE

Okeyrema Asante
 Bringing the flame home from
 Havana to Africa
 Album Title: Bringing the flame
 home from Havana to Africa
 Company: Mapleshade Records
 Genre: Jazz
 Release Year: 2000



STAN KILLIAN

Unified 2011
 Company: Sunny side Records
 Genre: Jazz
 Release Year: 2011

Feat:
 Stan Killian sax
 feat: Roy Hargrove, Jeremy Pelt,
 David Biney,
 Benito Gonzalez, Corcoran Holt,
 Maclenty Hunter.



EMMA LARSSON

Let it go
 Company: Imogena Records
 Genre: Jazz
 Release Year: 2010

MARTES 8:30

Ayer y Hoy
 Company: Latin World
 Genre: Jazz
 Release Year: 1998



AZAR LAWRENCE

Mystic Journey 2010
 Company: Furthermore
 Recordings
 Genre: Jazz
 Release Year: 2010

Feat:
 Azar Lawrence sax
 Eddie Henderson trumpet
 Gerald Hayes alto sax
 Rashied Ali drums
 Essiet Okon Essiet bass
 Benito Gonzalez piano

ANTONIO PARKER

Steppin' Out Live @ HR-57
 Company: Airegin Records
 Genre: Jazz
 Release Year: 2012

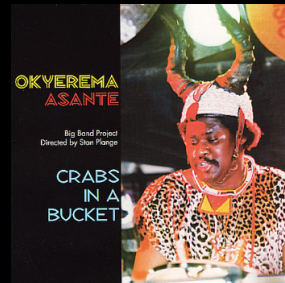
Feat:
 John Lamkin drums
 Zack Pride bass
 Benito Gonzalez piano
 Kenny Rittenhouse trumpet
 Antonio Parker sax



JAZZIZ: THE KEY PLAYERS

Artist: Jazziz: Robert Glasper; Marc
 Johnson; Benito González; Jelly Roll
 Morton; Lisa Hilton; Jamie Cullum;
 Joe McBride; Brian Culbertson; Bobo
 Stenson; Anders Jormin; Paul Motian;
 George Kahn; Alex Bugnon; Jean-Mi-
 chel Pile; Theo Bishop; Jean-Michel
 Pile Trio.; E.S.T. (Musical group)

Year: 2005
 Record Label: Blue Note Records




OKEYREMA ASANTE

Crabs In A Bucket
 Company: Afrisong/Jimbe
 Genre: Jazz/African
 Release Year: 1998

SIDEMAN





**“ Sacrifices are good, they will
comeback to you in great things”**



AWARDS

- Great American Jazz Piano Competition: Grand Prize Winner, 2005
- D.C. Commission of the Arts & Humanities: Emerging Artist Grant, 2003

DISCOGRAPHY

- Benito Gonzalez: Starting Point, 2005
- Kenny Garrett: Sketches of MD, Mack Avenue Records, 2008
- Azar Lawrence: Mystic Journey, Furthermore Recordings, 2009
- Benito Gonzalez: Circles, Furthermore Recordings, 2010
- Kenny Garrett: Seeds from the Underground, 2012
- Kenny Garrett: Pushing the World Away, 2013

CONCERTS

- Artist 's Collective, Hartford CT
- Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, University of Maryland
- Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, Whashington, DC
- Jacksonville Jazz Festival, Jacksonville, FL
- Smithsonian Jazz Festival, National Museum of American History
- Northsea Jazz Festival
- Motreux Jazz Festival
- Montreal Jazz Festival
- Alfa Jazz Festival
- Jazz Bez International Festival
- Dakar Jazz Festival
- Nice Jazz Festival
- Paris Jazz Festival
- Bratislava Jazz Days
- Prague Music and Art Festival





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