



COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

**PAQUITO D'RIVERA**

BORN: June 4, 1948

HOMETOWN: Havana, Cuba

ERA/STYLE: Latin Jazz/Contemporary Classical

Paquito D'Rivera defies categorization. The winner of 14 Grammy® Awards, he is celebrated both for his artistry in Latin jazz and his achievements as a classical composer.

Born in Havana, Cuba, he performed at age 10 with the National Theater Orchestra, studied at the Havana Conservatory of Music, and became a featured soloist with the Cuban National Symphony at 17. He directed the Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna for two years as co-founder of the group, while also playing both the clarinet and saxophone with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra. He eventually went on to premiere several works by notable Cuban composers with the same orchestra. This was just the beginning of Mr. D'Rivera's impressive career as a performer. He has toured the world with many classical and jazz ensembles, winning many awards along the way. His highly acclaimed ensembles, the Chamber Jazz Ensemble, the Paquito D'Rivera Big Band, and the Paquito D'Rivera Quintet, are still in great demand worldwide.

In addition to his extraordinary performing career as an instrumentalist, Mr. D'Rivera has rapidly gained a reputation as an accomplished composer, winning many awards for his unique compositions. His works often reveal his widespread musical interests and influences from his travels, which range from Afro-Cuban rhythms and melodies back to his classical origins. He has also published two memoirs about his life as a musician.

In 1999, the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares in Spain presented Mr. D'Rivera with a special award recognizing his contribution to the arts, humane qualities, and defense of rights and liberties of artists around the world. The National Endowment for the Arts website states "he has become the consummate multinational ambassador, creating and promoting a cross-culture of music that moves effortlessly among jazz, Latin, and Mozart." He currently lives in New Jersey.