

About the Musicians

Bandleader Guillermo Nojehowicz is the percussive drive behind EL ECO's elegant fusion of Brazilian Argentinean jazz. Combining samba and candombe with the tighter lines of straight-ahead jazz, he is a master of all the idioms, including Cuban, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, Funk – and of course, tango. A drummer who plays with the ear of a composer, Guillermo wrote most of the material on Puerto de Buenos Aires 1933.

He has performed with Claudio Roditi, Donny McCaslin, Jon Faddis, Danilo Perez, Airtó Moreira, Luciana Souza, Romero Lubambo, Carly Simon, Walter Vanderlei, and Pedro Aznar, among others.

Vocalist Kim Nazarian is an integral part of EL ECO's sound, especially because Guillermo often writes for voice as an instrument, sans lyrics. A co-founder of New York Voices, Kim is a passionate performer and polished, expansive soloist, bringing a dynamic sound palette to the band. With the penetrating timbre of her voice and her sometimes near-theatrical reach, Kim brings heart to every EL ECO performance.

The other key component is EL ECO's bassist Fernando Huergo (Tom Harrell, David Sanchez), Guillermo's fellow Argentinean. A formidable musician, Fernando plays from a very deep knowledge of those Latin grooves so characteristic of Guillermo's composition - the Argentinean 6/8 chacarera, the Brazilian samba, the Uruguayan candombe, and Afro-Cuban feels. An infallible and very creative jazz player and soloist, Fernando has been a core member of EL ECO for close to two decades.

Originally from Brazil, pianist Helio Alves is an extraordinarily virtuosic player. He brings exciting energy to every live performance. Formerly a part of the Joe Henderson Brazilian Project, Helio performed with Yo-Yo Ma on his Brazilian project recording, and is currently touring with Brazilian jazz vocalist Joyce Moreno. He spins melodic ideas into dizzying solos that always surprise.

Saxman Marco Pignataro (Eddie Gomez, George Garzone) is a dynamic, lyrical player who brings a particularly soulful sound to EL ECO in his tenor and soprano work. He embraces every tune with warm intensity. Marco is also managing director of the Berklee Global Jazz Institute, of which renowned pianist Danilo Perez (Wayne Shorter, John Patitucci) is artistic director.

Joining EL ECO on Puerto de Buenos Aires 1933 is Grammy-Award winning trumpeter Brian Lynch (Art Blakey, Eddie Palmieri), who brings a sophisticated sound and a deep understanding of the crossover between jazz and Latin music. A 2017 Grammy Nominee for Latin Jazz, Brian has been called "a major post-bop trumpet stylist."

Other featured artists on Puerto de Buenos Aires 1933 include Italian accordionist Roberto Cassan, who sadly passed away shortly after this recording. The album also includes percussion by Argentinean drummer Franco Pinna, with string arrangements by pianist Nando Michelin and performed by Megumi Stohs Lewis (violin), Ethan Wood (violin), Sara Darling (viola), and Leo Eguchi (cello).