

Nick “Brownman” Ali & Stich Wynston asked to represent Canada at 2005 Havana Jazz Festival!

VIVA HAVANA! Sun Nov 20 at Toronto’s Lula Lounge

A FUNDRAISER & PAAARTY FOR CANADA’S 2005 HAVANA JAZZ FEST REPRESENTATIVES

with Nick “BROWNMAN” Ali & CRUZAO and Stich Wynston’s TIGHTROPE feat. Brownman & Marcus Ali
Sunday, November 20 @ 8:00pm show (6:30pm doors) @ Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W., Toronto 416.588.0307 Lula.ca
\$20.00 – All proceeds going to supporting these artists while on tour
Hosted by: Amanda Martinez of Café Latino on JAZZ.FM 91.1; and Teresa Ottens of Mateca Productions

Two of Canada’s most visionary jazz musicians – multiple award-winning trumpet player Nick “Brownman” Ali and distinguished drummer Stich Wynston of the SHUFFLE DEMONS – have been asked to represent Canada at the 2005 Havana Jazz Festival in December. On Sunday, November 20th, these Canadian jazz ambassadors will be hosting a fundraiser concert & party at Toronto’s Lula Lounge. The night will feature: both CRUZAO & TIGHTROPE; cheap drinks thanks to the generous sponsorship of Havana Club, Cristal Beer and Lula itself; and a raffle for great prizes such as a beautiful commemorative posters & a 10-CD “Brown’s picks” box set. All proceeds go towards funding Canada’s proud answer to Havana’s call.”

This year’s fundraiser has a new dimension as well, with opportunities that need substantial money in order to come to fruition awaiting Brownman at festivals throughout South & Central America after he finishes once again taking Havana by storm (featured soloist 2002, 2003, 2004). Cubana Airlines has graciously sponsored these worthy Canadian musicians’ return airfare to Cuba, the first vital piece of this puzzle. A successful fundraiser would mean a great deal to look forward to for Canadian Latin-jazz fans in terms of recordings to enjoy, increased prestige for this country’s Latin-jazz community, and much more.

Providing a truly phenomenal evening of music and the impetus for fans to support this groundbreaking ambassadorship will be Brownman’s signature Latin-jazz ensemble CRUZAO; and TIGHTROPE, led by Stich Wynston and DNA-enhanced by the horn combo of Brownman and Marcus Ali. Both of these outstanding bands will be gracing the stage in Havana along with Cuban sidemen; CRUZAO HAVANA will feature an all-Cuban rhythm section and an important goal of this fundraiser is make it possible to pay these worthy Cuban artists a fair wage.

Nick “Brownman” Ali & CRUZAO

Justin Time Recording Artist

Brownman.com cruzao.brownman.com

CRUZAO is Canada’s preeminent Latin-jazz-urban ensemble, distinguished by Latinjazznet.com as the “finest Latin-jazz group Canada has ever produced.” Led by Trinidadian-born, NYC-schooled (under the legendary **Randy Brecker**) and multi award-winning Canadian trumpet icon Nick “The Brownman” Ali, this unique chordless Latin-jazz quintet fuses authentic Latin rhythms, jazz harmonies and urban ideologies; electrifying audiences with Brownman’s hard-hitting compositions and virtuosic solos by Canada’s finest Latin-jazz musicians. Brownman is currently signed to the prestigious **Justin Time Records** jazz label.

Awards & Distinctions

- Nick “Brownman” Ali & CRUZAO awarded the 2001 **Montreal Jazz Fest’s “Grand Prix du Jazz” Award**
- Nick “Brownman” Ali & CRUZAO awarded the 2001 **CBC Galaxie “Rising Star” Award**
- Nick “Brownman” Ali awarded 2002 National Jazz Award (NJA) for “**Composer Of The Year**”
- Nick “Brownman” Ali nominated for 2002 **Jazz Trumpet Player of the Year** NJA
- Nick “Brownman” Ali & CRUZAO nominated for 2002, 2003 and 2004 **Electric Jazz Group of the Year** NJA
- Nick “Brownman” Ali & CRUZAO nominated for 2004 **Canadian Independent Music Award** for “Alternative Latin Group”
- Nick “Brownman” Ali awarded 2005 NOW MAGAZINE award for “Toronto’s Best Jazz Artist”

Stich Wynston & TIGHTROPE

TCB Music Recording Artist

StichWynston.com

TIGHTROPE is the brainchild of **Stich Wynston**, iconic drummer for award-winning Canadian jazz-funk legends: the SHUFFLE DEMONS and collaborator with among many others: **Mike Murley**, **Jane Siberry**, **Tom Cochrane**, **Alex Lifeson** of **RUSH** and **Big Sugar**. Wynston is a multiple winner of CASBYS and Toronto Jazz Awards, and has appeared on many Juno-nominated albums. He also currently leads longtime friends Mike Murley, Jim Vivian and Geoff Young in his **MODERN SURFACES** quartet. As the name suggests, TIGHTROPE is dedicated to walking those fine and often precarious lines of risk that defines the best of improvisational jazz – a spirit also embodied to the highest level of musicianship by Brownman and Marcus Ali.

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