

## **BIOGRAPHY RAMÓN VALLE**

### **1984:**

Ramón graduates as a pianist at the Escuela Nacional de Arte in Havana, Cuba.

### **1985:**

Ramón plays a double concert with Emiliano Salvador. He performs as a solo-artist and as the leader of his quartet 'Brújulá' during the Havana Jazz festival, Mexico DF and the Jazz Festival in Bogotá/Colombia.

### **1991 – 1993:**

He is the pianist of the group Diákara from Silvio Rodríguez.

Ramón records his first cd 'Levitando' with the musicians Dafnis Prieto, Felix Betancourt and Antonio Guillem.

### **1995 – 1999:**

Ramón has his first performance in Europe, at the Jamboree Jazz Club in Barcelona, Spain. It is here where he records the live cd 'Casa Jamboree' with the musicians Salvador Niebla(drums) and Carles Benavent(bass).

He releases his cd 'Piano Solo'.

He settles in Amsterdam and makes a tour through Germany, Scandinavia and Spain.

### **2000:**

Ramón Valle co-operates as an orchestrator, composer and pianist with the project 'Ritmo Flamenco Cubano' and goes on a tour with them through Germany.

Ramon Valle plays for the first time with his trio at the North sea Jazz Festival, Holland .He was called 'the surprise of the Festival' by different critics.

### **2001:**

Valle's trio plays for the second time at the North Sea Jazz festival. This time with special guest musician Jane Bunnet.

**2002:**

The release of his cd 'Danza Negra' by the German record label ACT with the musicians Perico Sambeat(sax), Carlos Puig(trumpet), Omar Rodriguez Calvo(bass) and Horacio el Negro Hernández(drums).

Ramón plays on different Jazz Festivals, such as the Montreux Jazz Festival, Leverkusener Festival and Jazz Plaza Habana.

**2003:**

Ramón plays with his trio at the North Sea Jazz Festival with guest musicians Roy Hargrove and Perico Sambeat.

Ramón writes a composition for the Amsterdam Foundation of Art named: Mixed-up Mokum. The premiere is in the Concert hall of Amsterdam.

He releases his cd 'No Escape', also by ACT with the musicians Omar Rodriguez Calvo(bass) and Liber Torriente(drums).

Ramón co-operates and plays in a project from Ben Lierhouse, called 'Parsifal goes La Habana'.

**2004:**

With 'No Escape' he makes a tour through Holland, Belgium, France and Spain.

With 'Danza Negra' he makes a tour through Holland, Belgium and Hungary.

In Italy Ramón plays during the Jazz Manherba together with Chucho Valdes.

The concert is called: Chucho Valdes meets Ramón Valle.

Also he plays during the Piano Solo Festival, Prague.

**2005:**

Ramón plays with his trio during the Capetown Jazz Festival in Africa and in various other country's like Luxembourg, Austria, France and again in Prague.

Together with the Dutch trumpet player Eric Vloeimans he has various concerts with a project called 'Ramón Valle meets Eric Vloeimans'.

Ramón composes music for a documentary of the Dutch television called 'Benigno, farewell of a Revolution' from Marlou van Berge.

**2006:**

Ramón plays on the début album from the opera star Tania Kross.

Ramón releases his piano solo cd 'Memorias' by ACT. He makes a tour with this cd through Holland, Germany, Spain and France.

He plays together with Horacio el Negro Hernandez and Italuba during the Music Meeting in Nijmegen, Holland.

In Istanbul he plays with his trio and guest musician Perico Sambeat during the Akbank International Jazz Festival.

### **2007:**

Ramón plays with his trio and guest musician Perico Sambeat during the Melbourne Jazz Festival, Australia.

With the Gnawa Crossroads Project he makes a tour through Holland, Morocco, Germany and Spain.

Ramón gives various concerts with Eric Vloeimans. For example during the Granollers Jazz Festival, Spain.

With his trio he plays during the Johannesburg Jazz Festival, South Africa and during various festivals in Colombia.

### **2008:**

Together with Reno Steba he plays during the Aruba Jazz Festival.

With Eric Vloeimans and Gabor Winand he plays during the Hungarian Jazz Festival in Budapest. Ramón records together with Eric and Gabor the cd 'Fabulas' by the record label BMC.

### **2009:**

Ramón starts his own record label called 'RVS MUSIC' and releases his new trio-cd 'Playground' with the musicians Omar Rodriguez Calvo(bass) and Owen Hart jr.(drums).

Ramón Valle gives the cd presentation of "Playground" at the Bimhuis, Amsterdam.

The trio is a guest on the Dutch television program 'Vrije Geluiden'. Please check this interview (is in English) on youtube. (Ramon Valle interview for VPRO Vrije Geluiden). Here you can see also various tunes from Playground played by the trio.

### **2010:**

With 'Playground' the trio plays all over the whole world; they do a tour in Colombia and Israël, they play on festivals in London, Italy, Romania, Belgium

and in Holland they play on the North Sea Jazz Festival and in the famous Concert hall of Amsterdam.

### **2011:**

In this year Ramon is asked to be the guest soloist of the XLJAZZ Orchestra by Martin Fondse. Ramón plays several concerts with this orchestra and records an album with them called 'Martian World'. On this album are two compositions of Ramón, arranged for the orchestra.

Also, besides performing with his trio, Ramón plays a tour in Israel as a duo with the Dutch Jazz singer Denise Jannah.

In October of 2011 Ramón records his new album 'Flashes from Holland' with guest musician Jesse van Ruller. His second cd from his own record label RVS MUSIC. This project receives support from the Dutch Performing Arts Fund. Flashes from Holland will be released in march 2012.

### **2012:**

With the project 'Skins&Keys' Ramon makes a little tour in Februari of this year through theaters in Holland. It is a project with 3 percussion players (Nils Fischer, Niti Ranjan Biswas, Afra Mussawisade) and Ramon Valle on piano.

In march 2012 Ramon releases his new album 'Flashes from Holland' at the Bimhuis in Amsterdam. The concert is sold-out.

The album receives only positive critics and is rated with 4 and 5 stars.

With 'Flashes from Holland' Ramon Valle plays in a lot of different theaters in Holland, but also on the big international festivals, such as the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Barcelona Jazz festival and the International Jazz festival in Baqrquisimeto/Venezuela. Also the quartet is selected to give a showcase at the Dutch Jazz and World Meeting 2012.

Of course Ramon Valle continues performing with his trio in this year.

Especially in Germany. The trio plays here at different festivals, such the Klavier-Festival in Essen, in Elmau at the beautiful 'Schloss Elmau' and at the Bayerischer Hof in München, but also at the jazzclubs, like the A-Trane in Berlin.

**2013:**

Ramón Valle receives the invitation to compose five pieces for the Sinfonietta of Beer Sheva in Israel and performs these compositions with them during three very successful concerts.

The famous Dutch percussionist Lucas van Merwijk invites Ramón Valle to join his new project called 'Cuban Golden Classics'. With Lucas, Adinda Meertins, and the Thelonious Monk award winner Ilja Reijngoud they record an album and give different concerts national and international.

With his international well known cousin, the flutist, Orlando 'Maraca' Valle, Ramón starts a duo project which he performs with in the famous Concert hall in Amsterdam. Also they are invited as guests in the Dutch television program 'Vrije Geluiden'.

**2014:**

Was a year with a lot of new collaborations. It starts with Ramón being invited to play as a guest pianist at the new year's concert with the Metropole Orchestra in Rotterdam, Holland.

But also internationally Ramón enriches his horizon through his new producer and manager Suzi Reynolds from New York, USA. With Reynolds as his producer Ramón records his 10<sup>th</sup> album 'TAKE OFF' at the Wisseloord Studio in Hilversum.

Reynolds finds Ramon a record deal with In+Out Records from Germany, which will release 'TAKE OFF' in CD, but also in a special CD+DVD edition. In March 2015 will be the release in Europe and in May 2015 in the USA.

2014 is also a year with a lot of international concerts for Ramón his trio and with the special project 'The Cuban Jazz Family' featuring his cousin Orlando Maraca Valle on flute.

**2015:**

Ramón Valle's 10th album becomes a fact. The CD / DVD combination " TAKE OFF " is released by In + Out Records and the album is receiving positive attention in many countries, and in the USA, the album is getting a lot of promising criticism.

The lineup for this album consists of:

Ramón Valle – piano

Omar Rodriguez Calvo - double bass  
Ernesto Simpson – drums

Ramón is also invited this year for the 2nd time in Israel, this time through the Symphonic Orchestra of Raanana. They give 3 successful concerts, with all the compositions for the orchestra written by Ramón.

#### **2016:**

The release of another album. A special family album. A duo formation with his nephew (grammy award nominated and former Irakere member), the flute player Orlando 'Maraca' Valle. The album is called 'The Art of Two' and is a tribute to their family and love for music. The liner notes for this album are written by well-known Cuban writer Leonardo Padura and is also released with In+Out Records.

#### **2017:**

Ramón Valle returns for the first time in 20 years with his original trio to Cuba for a series of concerts.

The trio is invited to play at the Dutch Embassy in Havana and during the International Jazz Day at the Fabrica de Arte in Havana. During his concert Ramón Valle invites some special guests on stage to play with him, among them the famous bass player Marcus Miller.

During a special reunion in Havana, Chucho Valdes comments about Ramón: *'With his first album 'Levitando' Ramón Valle opened a new path in Latin Jazz'.*

#### **2018:**

Ramón is invited as a guest soloist and composer by the Ricciotti Ensemble and goes on tour with them in the Netherlands and Cuba. It is the first Dutch orchestra to tour in Cuba, with Ramón as the soloist. This tour has been documented by Bas Westerweel for 24classics television.

This same year a new trio album has been released: "The Time Is Now".

A special guest role for dear friend and trumpet player Roy Hargrove is recorded on this new album, who sadly passes away a few months later.

Ramón Valle and Maraca Valle win Cuba's most prestigious music award; the "Cubadisco" for their album "The Art of Two" in the category "Best Instrumental Album 2018".

## **2019**

This year he performs with The Neue Philharmonie Berlin his repertoire for Symphonic Orchestra at the International Jazz Festival in Burghausen, Germany. And with the same repertoire he plays a concert with La Orquesta Sinfonica de Holguin, in his hometown, Holguin, Cuba.

During his stay in Holguin, Ramón receives an honorary award for his work as a pianist and composer and is named one of the best Latin Jazz pianists in the world.

## **2020**

Despite the worldwide lockdown and the cancellation of all concerts, Ramón Valle achieves some positive goals this year.

He becomes an official Steinway & Sons artists and he releases his first LIVE album with his trio called "Inner State".

He also start a membership for people who want to be inspired and want to follow up close and personal the creative process of Ramón's work.