

Guakía, Inc.
proudly presents

The Ray González
Latin Jazz and Salsa Festival

Featuring Master International artists:

Ray González and His Orchestra

Luis Marín and His Latin Jazz Quartet

Paoli Mejías and His Latin Jazz Ensemble

Jerry Medina (Batacumbele's singer)

Guakibomjazz, Guakía's Latin Jazz Youth Orchestra will open the Festival

Thursday, August 9, 2007, 5:00-10:00 pm

Mortensen RiverFront Plaza

300 Columbus Boulevard—Downtown Hartford

Free

Hosted by:

RiverFront Recapture

Sponsored by:

**Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Greater Hartford Arts Council,
Universal Health Care Foundation of CT, Inc., Evelyn Preston Memorial Trust Fund,
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Telemundo WRDM-TV 13, La Voz Hispana, WPRX 1120,
WLAT Mega 910, WRYM 840**



A call
to
Latin Jazz and Salsa Lovers of all nationalities:
Guakía, Inc.

present
The Ray González
Latin Jazz and Salsa Festival

free to the public
at the Mortensen RiverFront Plaza in Downtown Hartford
on Thursday, August 9, 2007, from 5 pm to 10 pm.

Honoring the work done in Connecticut by musician and educator Ray González, Guakía, Inc. has named its annual music festival after him. González, a pioneer of Latin Jazz and Salsa since the early 70's is also an educator of our youth. A renowned musician and Latin music pioneer in New England, González has over 35 years of experience in the performing arts as a professional musician, arranger, composer and conductor. As a musician, the Caribbean, South America and the United States have been his laboratory of experience. González has worked with international musicians such as Tito Puente, Charlie Palmieri, Kako, Victor Paz, Giovanni Hidalgo, Charlie Sepúlveda, Ismael Rivera and many others. Through the years, González has been commissioned to compose music for the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed in collaboration with the symphonies for many projects such as *Music of the Americas* and *Serenata Latina*. He is also the Music Director for Guakía, Inc. and Guakía's Youth Latin Jazz orchestra "Guakibomjazz". The Board of Directors has combined the desire to honor Ray González with Guakía's mission to heal with music the soul of the community and fulfill its yearning for excellence. The festival will feature some of the most talented international artists in Latin Jazz and Salsa :

Ray González and His Orchestra

González, a musician dedicated in mind, body and soul to the creation of Salsa and Latin Jazz rhythms will be featuring his new Salsa CD "*Yo tengo lo que te gusta.*" The CD was recently chosen as the Editor's pick by the international Latin music web site: DESCARGA.COM and reviewed: "*a high-powered, traditional salsa dura, full of swing. This is why people love Salsa, it's music that resonates with joy. The arrangements, careful, working over montunos, keep the groove going, and it is hard not to imagine how slick this stuff must be live. Highly recommended.*" González future presentations include: "Festival de Toros y Salsa" in France.

Luis Marín and His Latin Jazz Quartet

Marín is an internationally acclaimed pianist whose passionate interpretation guides the audience into a new journey of feeling exploration of old and new music. Marín's performance promises to be one of the most memorable ones of the festival.

Paoli Mejías and His Latin Jazz Ensemble

Mejías is one of the world's youngest and most talented master percussionists who already endorses percussion instruments for the music firm: Latin Percussion (LP), and is a recipient of a Grammy Award.

Jerry Medina

A Jazz and Salsa singer and trumpeter. Medina, Batacumbé's lead singer, will ignite the stage with his gifted voice and feeling, giving the audience a performance to remember.

Guakibomjazz, Guakía's Latin Jazz Youth ensemble will open the concert for the featured artists.

During their visit to Hartford master artists: *Paoli Mejías, percussionist, Luis Marín, pianist and Jerry Medina, singer*, will conduct educational workshops at Guakía's new facilities to benefit music students and local musicians.

For more information contact: Guakía, Inc. 860-548-9555,
www.guakia.org, www.riverfront.org, marcelina.sierra@guakia.org

The Ray González
Latin Jazz and Salsa Festival

promises to be a great showcase for Latino artists and a point of connection for Jazz and Latin music lovers. A wonderful opportunity for Hartford to become a permanent international scenario of Latin music as a reflection of a large part of the City's residents and one of their most precious artistic expressions.

Viva la música!!!