

Town Hall
Seattle and
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Art present

GLOBAL

RHYTHMS

2025

2026

The Next Generation of Global Music



Town Hall Seattle and SAMA: Music + Art present

Kiki Valera: ¡Baila conmigo!

September 28, 7:30pm in The Great Hall

Curated by Jon Kertzer



SAMA
MUSIC+ART

Kiki Valera y su Son Cubano

Kiki Valera - *Cuban cuatro*

Carlos Cascante - *lead vocals*

Victor Castillo - *lead vocals*

Joshuah de Jesus - *lead vocals/congas*

Pedro Vargas - *bongos*

Javier Marú - *guitar*

Julian Weisman - *bass*

Thomas Marriott - *trumpet*

Nathan Vetter - *trombone*

Nathaniel Schleimer - *saxophone*

Set List*

Vida Parrandera
Felix Valera Miranda

El Ají de Cocina
Felix Valera Miranda

Perro Feliz
Osnel Odit Bavastro

Dale Candela
Francisco "Coco" Freeman

Ven a mi Fiesta
Francisco "Coco" Freeman

Respuesta del caballo
Osnel Odit Bavastro

Mari-Juana
Juana María Casas

Lágrimas Negras
Miguel Matamoros

El Empanadillero
Felix Valera Miranda

Tamal con tuza
Osnel Odit Bavastro

Se Quema la Chumbambá
Felix Valera Miranda

El Cuarto de Tula
Sergio Siaba

*May vary from the order listed

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About Kiki Valera

Son cubano is one of the most popular musical styles in Cuba and Kiki Valera is one of its foremost exponents. Over the last century, this style of traditional Cuban music has influenced many other genres, including jazz, cha-cha-cha, mambo, salsa, son, and timba. Cuban son is the music that made the Buena Vista Social Club worldwide stars in the late 1990s, but Kiki Valera comes from a family of musicians whose involvement with Cuban son pre-dates the BVSC by decades.

Kiki Valera is the oldest son of the famous La Familia Valera Miranda septet, a multi-generational traditional music group from Santiago de Cuba. Since the 19th century, La Familia Valera Miranda has played a significant role in Cuban culture by collecting and preserving the deep-rooted traditions of the legendary Sierra Maestra mountain region. Their debut album, ANTOLOGÍA INTEGRAL DEL SON (1982), helped initiate the explosion of interest in traditional Cuban music.

Kiki picked up the Cuban tres under the guidance of his father Felix when he was a child. He later attended one of the most prestigious music schools in Cuba, the Conservatorio Esteban Salas, in Santiago de Cuba and by age 15 was touring internationally.

Kiki, like most of his family, is a virtuoso. A multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, sound engineer, and producer, he's best known today as one of the world's greatest players of the Cuban cuatro, a mid-size guitar with eight strings grouped in sets of two.

Kiki continues to direct, compose, arrange, and perform internationally. He also performs and teaches in Seattle, where he contributes to the vibrant music scene of the Pacific Northwest. His current project features several other internationally acclaimed recording artists, including Coco Freeman (former lead singer of Adalberto Alvarez y su Son and NG La Banda), vocalist Carlos Cascante (3x Grammy Award-winning vocalist of Spanish Harlem Orchestra), trompetista Alexis Baró (Cubanismo and Omara Portuondo) and bongocero Pedro Vargas (Barbarito Torres band).

Thank you to our Global Atmosphere Partner!



Pancho Chaves opened **Cafe Con Leche** with his business partner and bandmate Peprito Vargas in 2012. They serve authentic Cuban food by day and share good music by night at their venue, Club Sur.

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