



FERMÍN Ceballos

songwriter | musician | bandleader

Today and for the last 8 years, **Fermín Ceballos** (José Fermín Ceballos) is driven to make his mark in the New Orleans music scene fueled by his life pursuit to share his music with the world. Born in San Cristobal, Dominican Republic, Fermín grew up in a small, very small town within a remote mountain range on his father's farmland called Jamey. At 13 years old, he made his first guitar out of rudimentary wood and at the age of 17, his parents began to escort him to local bars to study the accordion players and bands performing traditional Merengue, called Perico Ripiao. His study of music and song making began as a young child; his pursuit would take him to formally study and teach music at the Dominican Republic Secretary of State for Culture National School System and the University of Santo Domingo (UASD), leading him to travel the Caribbean and the United States performing music with different projects.

At a very young age, Fermín was fascinated with the local folk music particularly those employing the accordion and the guitar. He began composing music and experimenting with learning these instruments and mixing various rhythms without losing their foundations. His primary musical instruments are the accordion, the guitar, the piano, and his voice. After meeting his wife in Santiago de Cuba, Fermín relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana in April of 2012 and quickly began to enter the local music scene. Since arriving in New Orleans, he has collaborated with local musicians, bands, events, and organizations. Fermín is continually working his musical projects to merge different musical genres with Dominican modern and folk music.

In the fall of 2013, he formed a band called Merengue4FOUR. **Merengue4FOUR** is a local Latino musical group that celebrates and explores Afro Caribbean music and rhythms in New Orleans; performing a variety of Merengue Tipico/Perico Ripiao, Bachata, Vallenato, and Son Cubano. All musicians play live, different instruments depending on the song choice. Merengue4-FOUR plays traditional Merengue from the Dominican Republic called Perico Ripiao which is played with the accordion. Perico Ripiao is high-energy fast pace music that makes your hips move uncontrollably and has characteristics historically linked to the development of today's Zydeco music. Another traditional Dominican rhythm celebrated by the band is the highly popular, Bachata, which is performed with respect for traditional musical structures while also incorporating original compositions, that infuse modern rhythms. The band is steadily growing a local and regional following and is proud to share with New Orleans and the Gulf Coast the traditional musical rhythms and sounds of the Dominican Republic. On July 15, 2016, Merengue4FOUR successfully debut its first CD production with original music and covers, titled "Esta Lloviendo". To download the album click here: [Esta Lloviendo](#). And be sure to watch their first music video, "La VIP de la Noche" here: <https://youtu.be/86Nde5PpgME>

In the fall of 2012, Fermín began to self-teach himself the music notation software Finale and began fully developing several of his musical compositions. These arrangements lead him to form a full salsa jazz band; sometimes consisting of up to 14 musicians. **Fermín's Latin Fusion Orchestra** was born from a musical study and a goal to fuse Latin American and AFRO Caribbean rhythms with rhythms from other parts of the world. All the



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salsa songs performed are original compositions with vibrant musical arrangements and robust melodies to inspire the most avid salsa dancer. Fermín never envisioned himself a composer of salsa but his exposure to New Orleans' horn sections, in particular, the powerful sounds of New Orleans Brass Bands, inspired him to begin writing and experimenting with horn arrangements using Salsa and Latin Jazz rhythms. When describing this project, he says,

“Performing with this orchestra has been a very unique experience, feeling the energy of every song through the combined power of the horns, the percussion, and all the talented musicians. This special and powerful combination inspires me to compose Salsa and Latin Jazz music. The roots of these genres are based on a fusion of Afro-Caribbean rhythms and being from the Dominican Republic this is something I identify with; giving me the freedom to learn and to contribute to these beautiful musical genres.”

Fermín also enjoys freestyling live on stage, you can be sure to catch him sharply freestyling about the event and the audience. Fermín's Latin Fusion Orchestra celebrated the close of 2019 with a headline performance for the 2019 Christmas Concert Series, “Holidays New Orleans Style” inside the famous St. Louis Cathedral at Jackson Square. They start 2020 preparing for several upcoming festival appearances including for the first time the annual French Quarter Festival, and for the second time at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. Fermín has been further developing many new compositions and the band is regularly rehearsing and performing throughout the region. In the fall of 2019, Fermín released a music video for his Bilingual/Cha Cha Cha/Salsa/Reggae fusion song called, “Something to Do”. Click here to view the music video:

<https://youtu.be/01oE0A1K0X4>

Fermín Acústico is an especially personal musical project for Fermín. Beginning in January of 2017, Fermín began to develop an acoustic ensemble project called, “Yo Vengo de Todo Lado”; a project he began to develop while still living in the Dominican Republic. With his creativity and ideas enriched in New Orleans, he begins this project by fusing different rhythms with his personal contemporary, intimate and authentic style. Fermín Acústico many times is just Fermín and his guitar, sometimes a smooth trio, and other times it is made up of a complete ensemble. No matter the format, Fermín powerfully transforms the audience with his unique blend of music and storytelling. Fermín performs covers but his original songs with their harmony-drenched melodies compel a nostalgic feeling and his lyrics provoke social awareness and activism. With every song, his lyrics and melodies are front and center. Able to choose from hundreds of original compositions, his song choices cover New Orleans inspired Latin Blues, various Jazz compositions and a Brazilian Bossa Nova with lyrics in Portuguese. His original song called, “Yo Vengo de Todo Lado” (I Come From Everywhere) was written to honor and celebrate our immigrant diversity and was adopted by the National TPS Alliance as their anthem. After releasing the single and music video in November 2018 Fermín performed live in front of the White House at a National TPS Alliance orchestrated event. Watch the music video here: <https://youtu.be/YYTkzupzKnk>

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In March 2019, Fermín published his first poetry book. **'Pisando Mi Sombra'** (Walking My Shadow) is a dream come true for the singer-songwriter. Fermín's verses are a connection between poetry and song. A book written in English & Spanish where we can find different topics that, between metaphors and puns, make us travel in different directions. With a very personal touch, his poetry leaves many windows open to the imagination, and challenges the reader to land in a socio-political reality. 'Pisando Mi Sombra' is available online at [Barnes & Noble](#) and [Amazon](#).

Fermín is a young innovating Afro-Dominican musician - songwriter. In his hometown, Fermín surprised critics and fans of the jazz and fusion community with his lyrics and compositions. His musical vision is not limited by genre barriers—he prefers to integrate the many facets of music and performance into an engaging, inclusive experience. He is eager to work hard to share his music and his rare combination of authenticity, talent, and creativity with the world and the New Orleans music community.

To view videos of different musical performances visit his YouTube Channel: [@FermínMusica](#)

To follow him on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: [@FerminMusica](#)

An Example List of Performances & Appearances:

2012-2013: Noche Bohemia At 809 Lounge, New York, NY • VI Feria Del Libro Dominicana, New York, NY • Cox4 New Orleans TV Program "De Todo Un Poco" Christmas Special • Dominicanos Unplugged Concert Series, New Orleans, LA • WWOZ 90.7 FM "Tiene Sabor con Yolanda" Show • Mambo Urbano Concert Series, New Orleans, LA • Jazz & Heritage Festival as a special invited guest of Asheson

2014: Carretta's Grill Metairie Cinco de Mayo Festival • NORDC Latino Heritage Festival • Cox4 New Orleans TV Program "De Todo Un Poco" 20th Anniversary Special • LIVE Radio, WWOZ 90.7 FM "Tiene Sabor con Yolanda" Show • Annual Baton Rouge Catholic Charities Latino Festival • Annual Kenner Latino Fest • Residency at Las Delicias Dominican Restaurant in Harvey • Dominican Independence Day Concert in New Orleans • Que Pasa Fest • Recorded the Accordion for the Grammy Foundation-funded musical project of Dominican/Brooklyn artist Irka Mateo

2015: Opening for El Chaval de la Bachata, Toño Rosario, Raulín Rodríguez at the Sheraton New Orleans • Crab Island Cantina, Destin, FL • Annual Kenner Latino Fest • Felipe's Taqueria Mid-City Cinco de Mayo Festival • El Paso Cinco de Mayo Festival • ACLA Lafayette Latin Music Fest • CubaNOLA Arts Collection Music Series at the Prime Example • Hispanic Committee Tulane Hospital and Clinic • Saks Fifth Avenue - Key to the Cure Kickoff Gala • Mobile, Alabama Cinco de Mayo Mexican Cantina • Mosaic Tapas Bar, Ocean Springs, MS • WWOZ 2015 Pledge Drive Live Session • Latin JAM Festival, Pensacola, Florida • Costa Latina Fest, Pensacola, Florida • Guest Writer for Talento Local Column in Jambalaya News Magazine



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2016: Felipe's Taqueria Mid-City Cinco de Mayo Festival • El Paso Cinco de Mayo Festival • ACLA Lafayette Latin Music Fest • CubaNOLA Arts Collection Music Series at the Prime Example • NORDC Latino Heritage Festival • Taco Truck Theater Latin Music All-Stars Benefit Concert • Dominican Independence Day Concert • Que Pasa Fest • Mosaic Tapas Bar, Ocean Springs, MS • Bring Your Own, Live Storytelling Series at Propeller • MaCCNO #GivingTuesday Happy Hour Celebration and Open Membership Fundraiser • Don Leoncio Cigar Bar, New Orleans • El Paso Mexican Grill Luling • Carreta's Grill Harahan • Residency at El Patron Restaurant in Harvey • Residency at El Noa Noa Restaurant Bar, Kenner • Chilito's Seafood Restaurant, Harvey • MGM Park Latin Fest, Biloxi, Mississippi • Guest Writer for Talento Local Column in Jambalaya News Magazine

2017: Tulane's LAGO 2017 Conference Pachanga • Residency at Las Delicias Dominican Restaurant in Harvey • Dominican Independence Day Concert in New Orleans • Central City BBQ's Crawfish Fridays • Felipe's Taqueria Mid-City Cinco de Mayo Festival • ACLA cultural event, "Historia del Merengue y Su Influencia Cultural" • Treme 7th Ward Fest • NOLA Caribbean Festival • 1st Inaugural Fiesta FEST: Celebrating the Independence of Mexico & Central America • Casa Borrega • 3ra Feria Deportiva y Gran Festival Garifuna de New Orleans • Mosaic Tapas Bar, Ocean Springs, MS • Bring Your Own, Live Storytelling Series at the Contemporary Arts Center • WWOZ 90.7 FM "Tiene Sabor con Yolanda" Show • Two (2) Self Produced Acoustic Concerts: Yo Vengo de Todo Lado • Hector Acosta "El Torito" Concert • Residency at El Patron Restaurant in Harvey • Carreta's Grill Harahan, Mother's Day Lunch • El Paso Mexican Grill Luling • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA): Misión Mesa Abierta • La Vela Restaurant Bar, Kenner • La Neta Dance Club, Baton Rouge • NORDC Latino Heritage Festival

2018: New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival • Treme 7th Ward Culture & Arts Festival • Felipe's Taqueria Mid-City Cinco de Mayo Festival • Concerto Moises Canelo y Merengue4-FOUR en Dago's Nightclub • Krewe de Carnaval, Downtown Pensacola, Florida • Tequila and Taco Festival, Destin, Florida • TV Host & Producer of Ruta10 • Cultural & Entertainment Paradigm Gardens Spring Concert Series, New Orleans • Seville Quarter, Pensacola, Florida • Las Delicias Dominican Restaurant in Harvey • Second Thursday at the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans • Tiki Tolteca, French Quarter, New Orleans • El Paso Restaurant, Chalmette, LA • FIESTA FEST, Felipe's Taqueria Mid-City, New Orleans • José Fermín Live at Café Istanbul Concert Documentary • Acoustic Nights at Baja NOLA Restaurant & Bar (Weekly Residence) • Afro-Dominican Roots in #NOLA with José Fermín at The Prime Example Music Club • Festival y Feria Garifuna New Orleans • My Acoustic Soul NYC at The Lovinger Theater Lehman Stages at Lehman College - The City University of New York • Versos Estivales Poetry Collection New York • Acoustic Nights at Baja Nola, Metairie, L • Mano a Mano Live Music, El Paso Restaurant, Luling, LA • Latin Acoustic Night, El Paso Mexican Grill, Metairie, LA • Canto y Poesía NYC 2018 at the Commission of Culture of the Dominican Republic in New York • Bachata Night Live at NOLA Cantina, Frenchmen Street, New Orleans

2019: Treme 7th Ward Culture & Arts Festival • Felipe's Taqueria Mid-City Cinco de Mayo Festival • Latin Night at NOLA Cantina, Frenchmen Street, New Orleans • Las Delicias Dominican Restaurant in Harvey • Second Thursday at the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans • Tiki Tolteca, French Quarter, New Orleans • El Carretta's Restaurant, Metairie, LA • Bring Your Own, New Orleans • Our Voice Nuestra Voice Community Summit, New Orleans • Kenner Fest, Kenner, LA • Gretna Fest, Gretna, LA • 3rd Annual FIESTA FEST, Felipe's Taqueria Mid-City, New Orleans • Fermín Acoustic Latin Trio, Felipe's Taqueria MidCity, New Orleans • Cinco de Mayo Brunch





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Fiesta, Pythian Market, New Orleans • New Orleans Book Release Concert, Cafe Istanbul, New Orleans - Lafayette Book Release Concert, Cafe Habana City, Lafayette, LA • Miami Book Release Concert, 8th Edition Miami Performance International Festival 2019, Edge Zones Art Gallery, Miami, FL • Gentilly Fest, New Orleans • Cyclical Migrations & Border Crossings Art Exhibit, Neighborhood Story Project, 7th Ward New Orleans • Holidays New Orleans Style Concert Series, St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, LA

2020: L'Union Creole Concert & Interview Series, Neighborhood Story Project, 7th Ward New Orleans • Brasa Churrasqueria Vino Night Residency, Metairie, LA • El Pasa Restaurant Luling & Algiers Residency • Krewe of Red Beans Election Ball, New Orleans • Krewe of Red Beans Lundi Gras Parade Pre-Party, Marigny Opera House New Orleans

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