

## Yordan Martinez - Biography

Yordan “Trombón” Martinez has encountered enriching musical experiences since his arrival in Montreal. Musician, trombonist, innovative arranger, composer, and above all a fantastic musical director, Yordan Martinez was raised in a whirlpool of musical genres in his native Cuba which inspired him to be the musician he is today. At the age of seven, Yordan Martinez studied music and became a member of different Cuban bands; and in the year 2000, as a young adult, he joined a famous Cuban band by the name of Klimax led by the legendary percussionist Giraldo Piloto.



In 2001, he played on the album “Klimax and Friends” with other guest artists, namely pianist Chucho Valdés and percussionist Jose Luis Quintana “Changuito” (two artists who won Grammy awards). As a member of Klimax and accompanied by Giraldo Piloto, Yordan “Trombón” participated at different Jazz Festivals in Europe. Together, they toured in Finland, Spain, Denmark, Italy, France, and Germany. Back in Canada, the band was invited in the Ottawa region to play at the Casino du Lac-Leamy in Hull as part of the CISCO Bluesfest activities. After this musical experience in Canada in 2003, Yordan Martinez set foot in the Montreal region to pursue his career and has lived there ever since.

Since 2003, Yordan Martinez has performed with local and international artists. In 2015, he and his band, The Cuban Martinez Show, played with Puerto-Rican musician Andy Montañez at the Club Soda. As a versatile and multifaceted musician, Martinez proves to be a creative artist ; he stands out with his gift for improvisation and his unique musical arrangements. In Montreal, he has worked as a studio musician on albums from Dominique Hudson (DANZA 1-2-3), Florence K, Mario Pelchat, and Edwin Bonilla (Gloria Estefan’s percussionist).

While completing his Bachelor’s degree in Jazz Performance, he produced the first album by the Université de Montréal Big Band, under the supervision of Ron Di Lauro. Alumnus of this same faculty in 2008, and as a member the big band, Yordan participated at different stage performances while studying, and also accompanied other musicians such as Michel Donato, Giraldo Piloto, Oliver Jones, Sophie Desmarais, and Michel Legrand.

In 2011, Yordan Martinez and TCMS won a Syli d’Or award of world music, organised by productions Nuits d’Afrique. He collaborated on the creation of Dominique Hudson’s first demo for his album “Danza 1” which was produced by Peter Renallo. Album on which Yordan made his first “Danza” arrangements for the brass section on the song “J’té veux encore,” as well as all the trombone sections for the album “Danza 1.” His band, The Cuban Martinez Show, accompanied Dominique Hudson on both his albums in 2012 and 2014, and also worked as musical director on the performances. In spring of 2014, he made the arrangements for the brass and percussion sections for the album Danza 2 in collaboration with producer Peter Ranallo. Also, Yordan Martinez took care of the arrangements for the song “Maria Dolores” on the 2015 gold album that rendered homage to the legendary Sweet People: “*On a tous quelque chose de Sweet People.*” In the summer of 2016, he recorded, made the arrangements, and

collaborated on the album “Danza 3,” accompanied by Dominique Hudson and produced by Guy Tourville. The album was released in November of 2016.

Yordan Martinez and his band have played all over Quebec. They have played a few times at The Montreal Jazz Festival, Festival Montréal en Lumières, Festival des Traditions du monde of Sherbrooke, Mondial Choral in Laval, Festival Mémoires et Racines, Festival international des Rythmes du Monde de Saguenay, Festival du Bout du Monde in the Gaspé, and finally at the Franco Festival of Calgary. Yordan Martinez and his band TCMS accompanied with artist Dominique Hudson participated at the “Francofolies” of Montreal, Festival d'Été de Québec, Festival des Montgolfières, Alma’s Festiram, and finally at “La Traversée du Lac St-Jean”. They also cooperated in multiple cultural activities in the Montreal region and the province of Quebec.

Since the endless “Danza Tour” that began in 2010, Yordan Martinez and TCMS has performed in the best halls in Quebec with Dominique Hudson. They played in Gatineau, Rimouski, Malartic, Thetford Mines, Quebec City, St-Georges de Beauce, l'Avenir, Trois-Rivières, Terrebonne, Chicoutimi, Dolbeau, La Baie, Lévis, Drummondville, Dégelis, Sherbrooke, Dix-30 and l'Étoile in Brossard, Laval, St-Eustache, l'Assomption, Ste-Thérèse and many others always.

In February of 2015, as a musical director, Yordan Martinez was mandated to oversee Dominique Hudson and his 10 musicians for the sold-out show “Extra-Danza” at the Olympia in Montreal. In May of 2015, they all repeated the experience at the Cabaret Le Dix-30 in Brossard with additional shows in August, at the Imperial Bell of Quebec City in September, in Laval in November, and at l'Étoile de Brossard on December 31 of the same year. They have been invited in Holguin Cuba to perform at the “Fiesta Cultura Iberoamericana” in January 2017 with other local cuban musicians for a week long. The tour continued and performances for the Extra-Danza were added since 2016, until 2018.

Yordan Martinez and his orchestra The Cuban Martinez Show have stood out on the Montreal and Quebec music scene. From 2010 to 2016, they performed every Sunday at “Les Bobards” which later became the Groove Nation. Since 2010, they have been presenting their show “Musica Cubana” once a month at the Cabaret Le Balcon du Quartier des Spectacles. With more than 150 shows a year, The Cuban Martinez Show leaves irresistible Cuban musical warmth everywhere they perform.

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