



El Pampero

The Official Gato Barbieri Newsletter

907 Eton Way, Neptune, NJ 07753

elpampero@earthlink.net; www.gatobarbierinewsletter.com

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Friends and Fellow Music Lovers,

In the two years since I assumed the job of mailing list manager for Gato, I have been continually looking for ways to make the newsletter—and now website—better and more effective at reaching all who wish to be in touch with Gato. As you probably know, the world is becoming increasingly electronic, digital, fast. Venues and promoters increasingly rely on e-mail and web advertising and increasingly offer promotions on short turnaround times. These promotions are something I will always do my best to offer to all, but the logistics of preparing a print mailing and getting it out in time to get word to those of you who subscribe by regular mail is often prohibitive.

I would like to invite any of you who are able, to consider signing up by e-mail. For those of you for whom this is not a possibility—or for those who simply prefer not to receive yet another e-mail (believe me, I understand!)—I would like to let you know that I am increasingly trying to run the website (<http://www.gatobarbierinewsletter.com>) in parallel to the e-mail newsletter. For those of you who are able to check in from time to time via the web, I hope this will enable me to offer you as nearly

as possible more of the kind of real-time communication I offer by e-mail and extend to you more of the last-minute offers.

Best wishes and thank you for your continued support of Gato.

Lois Roe, Editor
El Pampero

Gato Named 2004 Puerto Rico Heineken JazzFest Honoree

It is with great pride and pleasure that we bring you the news that Gato has been selected as the **Honoree** for this year's **Puerto Rico Heineken JazzFest**, which will take place **June 3-6, 2004**.

Although Latin Music and Jazz have a long and rich history together, there are relatively few events among the annual litany of jazz festivals that focus on celebrating Latin Jazz and helping aspiring young Latin musicians connect with opportunities to play jazz of all styles. The Puerto Rico Heineken JazzFest (PRHJF), now in its 14th year, is one of them.

Begun in 1990, the festival owes its existence to the vision of Luis Alvarez of Mendez and Company, a distributor of Heineken products in Puerto Rico.

Although Heineken now runs a number of jazz festivals worldwide each year, the driving force that has made the Puerto Rico Heineken JazzFest a growing success has been the combined efforts and determination of Alvarez and his partner in promotion, Joey Sala of Sala Creativa.

Each year, the PRHJF honors a jazz artist who has contributed substantially in some way to the development and growth of Latin Jazz. Past honorees, who have been primarily from Puerto Rico and Cuba, but also other parts of the Caribbean, have included Paquito D’Rivera, Michel Camilo, and Tito Puente, among others. Now broadening their consideration of artists to other Latin American countries, festival organizers naturally thought of Gato.

“We’re very pleased to be able to honor Gato Barbieri this year,” Alvarez recently told Jaime Torres Torres in an interview in *El Nuevo Dia*¹. “His accomplishments are well known.... We’re opening doors to the diversity of the genre and this helps native Puerto Rican musicians evolve around jazz.”

Following his own unique musical trajectory for more than five decades, Gato Barbieri has traversed many styles of music, from the folkloric music of his native Argentina, to Italian pop and film music, free jazz, his own pioneering fusions of jazz and Latin folk music, and more recently, the lush, romantic style that has captivated so many worldwide. Even in today’s environment of mass produced megastars, Gato “looms large over today’s musicscape,” wrote Tom

Terrell in *Jazz Times* in 1997, “because he straddles both the old and the new school with a sound so preternaturally visceral, so emotionally raw, that it simply transcends rhythm and time.”

On Wednesday, June 2nd, Gato will receive an award at the unveiling of this year’s festival artwork, which features his image. He will perform with his band Saturday, June 5th at 9:30 pm. For more information on the festival, visit <http://www.prheinekenjazz.com>. JazzFest tickets go on sale April 15th through Ticketpop by calling (787) 294-0001. The cost is \$28 per event or \$75 for a Jazzpass valid for all four nights.

Farewell to Francesco Scavullo

(January 16, 1921– January 6, 2004)

The Barbieri Family would like to extend its sympathies to the loved ones of famed fashion photographer Francesco



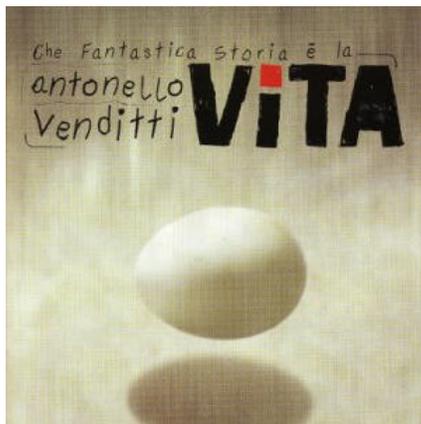
Scavullo, who so kindly included Gato in his landmark book *Scavullo on Men* over 25 years ago.

Noted for his groundbreaking approach to lighting that seemed to bring out the best in all his subjects, Scavullo was a gifted artist and a generous person and will be greatly missed.

¹ Translation by editor; original Spanish article available by permission on newsletter website.

Back Together Again: Gato joins Antonello Venditti on New CD

Among the many things Gato has done during his five-decade career—among the many types of music he has played—some of the most interesting have been his collaborations with vocalists such as Sergio Mihanovich, and Italian pop icons Gino Paoli, Pino Daniele and Antonello Venditti. While many of these collaborations may not be well known to Gato's fans outside Argentina and Italy, some of them are very important historically. For example, Gato played on one of Paoli's most famous hits of the



60's, *Sapore Di Sale*, which in turn brought him to the attention of many Italian music fans.

But what I personally love about these collaborations and what has long fascinated me about Gato's playing with these singers is his natural, at times almost uncanny, ability to not only accompany singers but almost fill in their thoughts. You can always tell that he is listening intently to the vocalist. This is something, I think, that not every instrumentalist can do well. We got a wonderful taste of this recently when Gato collaborated with Cassandra Reed on *If I Was Your Woman/Si Tu Me*

Quisieras on his own CD *The Shadow of the Cat*.

Perhaps it is because Gato always plays so directly from the heart that he can anticipate what a singer wants to convey. In any case, it is something too rarely showcased but which, happily, can be heard once again on Venditti's newest CD, *Che Fantastica Storia è la Vita* (*What a Great Story Life Is*) (2004).

Venditti, long known for the sincerity and passion of his singing is a natural match with Gato's passionate playing. The two first collaborated on Venditti's 1979 *Buona Domenica* and have also played together live on at least a few occasions over the years.



Antonello Venditti and Gato Barbieri in the 1970's

On *Che Fantastica Storia è la Vita*, Gato plays on both versions of the title track, as well as the second track, *Io e Mio Fratello* (*I and My Brother*). For the closing version of *Che Fantastica Storia è la Vita*, Antonello gave Gato free reign and the result is a very poignant, extended solo that really ends the album in style. Gato, who really enjoyed the reunion, considers Venditti truly unique; "no one else does what he does."

Gato's Concert Calendar*

(as of 4/15/04)

Date/Time	Venue/Location	Tickets/Information
April 17, 2004 (Saturday) 8:00 pm	Sheldon Concert Hall 648 Washington Blvd. St. Louis, MO	Http://www.sheldonconcerthall.org Metrotix (314) 534-1111
May 1, 2004 (Saturday) 7:30 pm	The Birchmere** 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave Alexandria, VA	http://www.ticketmaster.com Box Office after 5pm (703) 549-7500 or (202) 432-seat
May 4-9, 2004 (Tuesday-Sunday) 9:00 & 11:30 pm	Blue Note Milano Milano, Italy	http://www.bluenote.net/milano 011-39-340-363-7075
May 15, 2004 (Saturday) 9:00 pm	The Uptown Theatre** 100 North Main Street Washington, PA	http://www.uptowntheatre.info Box Office: (724) 223-8101
May 29, 2004 (Saturday) 8:15 pm	Hobgood Park Amphitheatre** Woodstock, GA	http://www.ticketmaster.com
June 5, 2004 (Saturday) 9:30 pm	Puerto Rico Heineken JazzFest Amphitheater Tito Puente San Juan, PR	http://www.prheinekenjazz.com
June 24-26, 2004 (Thurs.-Sat.) 8 & 10:00 pm (Th) 8 & 10:30 pm (Sa,Su)	Scullers Jazz Club 400 Soldiers Field Road Boston, MA	http://www.scullersjazz.com (617) 561-4111
September 5, 2004 (Sunday) 8:30 pm	Latin Jazz Under The Stars Brookhaven Amphitheatre Brookhaven (LI), NY	http://www.ticketmaster.com

*Concerts are subject to change; for the most up-to-date schedule visit:
<http://www.centralentertainment.com/gato/itinerary.html>

**See insert for Ticket Giveaways and Discounts for mailing list members!