



El Pampero

The Official Gato Barbieri Newsletter

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From the Editor's Desk

Welcome, new subscribers and saludos, everyone. I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer. I am very pleased to bring you the third issue of *El Pampero*, which continues to evolve. First, we now have a real masthead. Also, *El Pampero* now has its own e-mail: elpampero@earthlink.net. Mail sent to the old address will still get through, but this new e-mail will be the official one. Finally, this issue also introduces a new feature: contributions from some of you—in this case, two pieces shared by fans from the southeast who attended Gato's show at the Hartford Jazz Festival July 19th.

As it happened, late that Friday, a violent storm system began wreaking havoc up and down the East Coast. Everyone who attended, including Gato and his band, had a doubly long trip to make. Fortunately, not only did they all make it, they had some nice moments together afterward.

Hats off to all of you who brave the elements and distances for your music. May you all have great moments, too.

And with that, I introduce Guy Johnson and A. Khalis Pride and thank them for sharing their experiences. I hope you enjoy this issue.

Sincerely,
Lois Roe, Editor

From Guy Johnson, Columbia, SC

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to the Gato Team. My wife gave me the greatest 44th birthday present, to see my favorite sax player, Gato.



Gato Barbieri and Guy Johnson at the Hartford Jazz Festival

The Connecticut Jazz Fest presented Gato so tastefully. Just hearing the rumbling of Gato's tones coming through the breeze of his emotions touched my soul.

I learned how to play the sax just falling in love with Gato's style. Meeting him after the show has motivated me into playing once again. I have plans to re-release a CD "From Me to Gato," playing his and my favorite songs.

Before I close I have just one question, "Where did Gato find his great band?"

Guy Johnson, Columbia, SC

Many thanks to: Bryan Dechter/Dancing Eyes Design for the great masthead; to Barbara Roe, Tom Roe, Tony Davis, everyone at Central Entertainment, and to all of you for your support and ideas.

From A. Khalis Pride, Birmingham, AL

One thing that has become more commonplace lately in my travels where jazz is concerned is that I never anticipate when I will have a special moment where I actually get to meet an artist that has had such a high impact on me personally. Then all of a sudden...it happens. My most recent was in Hartford with the incomparable one himself, Gato Barbieri.

His was the first face I saw when I walked into the Hartford Hilton for the first night of the Jazz Festival held there. Little did I know that a lingering thunderstorm that threatened to wash away opening night would be the catalyst in a glorious chance encounter.



A. Khalis Pride & friend Josie at the Hartford Jazz Festival

I grew up in the 70's listening to Gato's music but never in my wildest dreams

The Shadow of the Cat

One of the first things you read when you open up the liner notes of Gato's new CD is his dedication to his mother. "I called my new CD *The Shadow of the Cat*, but I am really standing in her shadow," he told me recently.

No doubt this realization is made all the more poignant by watching his own young son react to his music. "Children are great little barometers: they don't lie about what they like and don't like," observed Gato's wife Laura a couple of weeks ago, in describing 4 1/2-year-old Christian's reaction to his father's new CD. "He loves to dance and play his guitar along with the songs."

had I envisioned myself carrying on what would be a fascinating conversation with the man.

He wanted so badly to perform that night, and while we were waiting for the rain to stop, he talked of his love for his family, and especially his son, soccer, the music industry, his longevity in it—just so much—that time simply flew by.

Within the hour, he was onstage, mesmerizing me with his music once again, and before it was known, he had stepped off.

It is true that the greatest experiences in life are those that you never see coming. My conversation with Gato Barbieri will go down in my personal jazz history as one of those moments.

*Sincerely, A. Khalis Pride
President, The Jazz Nation*

Does he have any favorites, I wondered?

Yes, said Laura, Christian's favorite song is the vocal track *If I Was Your Woman*, co-written and sung by newcomer Cassandra Reed—both in English and Spanish versions (*Si Tu Me Quisieras*)—in a breathy and appealing voice. This track is also fun because of the interaction between Reed and Barbieri, who was obviously listening to her closely and really articulating his playing with her singing.

But with Jason Miles' Brazilian-influenced production on this new Gato CD, danceable and catchy tunes abound.

Bursting out of the gate with a brassy intro is *El Chico*, Gato's homage to his late friend, composer and arranger, Chico O'Farrill, with whom Gato made *Chapter 3: Viva Emiliano Zapata* in the 70's. As Chico started out his musical career playing the trumpet, it is fitting that this tune also features the special presence of trumpet legend Herb Alpert, who augments *El Chico* with a hip muted trumpet solo.

Herb joins Gato on two other tunes, the equally catchy title track and *Para Todos (For Everyone)*, which has a very warm, celebratory feeling. It is one of the real treats of this album to hear how well these two artists complement each other, especially on this tune. And this is the first time they have teamed up since Gato first recorded for Alpert's A&M label a little over 25 years ago.

"I've been friends with Herb for many years," says Gato in his new bio for Peak Records, "but it was Jason who called him to work on this album. Herb was very happy to participate, and said that I still play beautifully. I returned the compliment. He knew of all my health problems in recent years, but said that time seemed to stand still for me. We talked about all the musicians we admired who faded away or died young, and it was great to realize we were both still doing what we loved, as active in

the business as ever."

The Shadow of the Cat blends several up-tempo rhythmic tunes with a number of more meditative, quintessential Gato Barbieri tunes like *Last Kiss*, *Beautiful Walk* and *Bliss*, which benefit from some nice acoustic guitar work by Peter White and Romero Lubambo. There are also some great contributions by Sheila E. on percussion, Jason Miles on keyboards, and Russ Freeman on electric guitar.

It will be interesting to see how these songs transform in live performances without the trumpets, acoustic guitars or vocalists. As longtime Cat fans can attest, half the fun of seeing Gato

perform live is being surprised by how the songs change, both from recording to concert and from one show to the next.

"When I play the saxophone," explains Gato, "I play life, I play love, I play anger, I play confusion, I play when people scream; all of these aspects of the world I inhabit become naturally important to me. It's exciting that people are still moved when I play, and I consider myself blessed to have fans that have listened to me for such a long time. They still do, and I'm still having fun. When I start recording, I am playing for me, but when I play a concert, I play for me and for them. It is not a "show," but a musical message. They understand where I am coming from."



To hear clips from *The Shadow of the Cat*, visit the Peak Records Jukebox at <http://www.peak-records.com/> or <http://www.centralentertainment.com/gato>
For a review, visit: <http://www.jazzreview.com/cdreview.cm?ID=3433>

Gato's Concert Calendar

Date(s)	Venue/Location	Tickets/Information
October 13, 2002 (Sunday)	The Birchmere Alexandria, VA	http://www.birchmere.com
October 16-17, 2002 (Wednesday and Thursday)	SOB's 204 Varick Street New York, NY	http://www.SOBs.com (212) 243-4940
October 27, 2002 (Sunday)	Deutsches Jazz Festival Hessischer Rundfunk Sendesaal, GERMANY	All-Star Band* http://www.hr-online.de/jazzfestival Tel.: 069/1552000 http://www.hr-ticketcenter.de/
October 29, 2002 (Tuesday)	Teatro Comunale Salerno, Italy	All-Star Band*
October 30, 2002 (Wednesday)	Chiesa Dello Spasimo Palermo, ITALY	All-Star Band*
October 31, 2002 (Thursday)	TBA Lecce, Italy	All-Star Band*
November 2, 2002 (Saturday)	Leverkusener Jazzstage Leverkusen, GERMANY	All-Star Band* Tel.: +02171.7679.58 www.leverkusener-jazztage.de
November 15, 2002 (Friday) 8 PM	Tampa Bay PAC Playhouse 1010 N. Macinnes Place Tampa, FL	(813) 229-7827 or (813) 287-8844
November 16, 2002 (Saturday) 8 PM	Carefree Theatre 2000 S. Dixie Hwy West Palm Beach, FL	(561) 833-7305 or (561) 966-3309
November 27, 2002 (Wednesday)	Bellas Artes Center Theatre San Juan, Puerto Rico	
March 21, 2003 (Friday)	Berks Jazz Festival Reading, PA	http://www.berksjazzfest.com/ Schedule TBA 12/1 Tickets go on sale 12/10

***The All-Star Band is:**

Gato Barbieri on tenor sax
Rosario Bonaccorso on bass
Enrico Rava on trumpet
Danilo Rea on piano
Aldo Romano on drums