

# Salsa for Cuba

## Local artist sending music south

BY JENN BETHUNE

There may be only one kind of music that inspires everyone to move — Salsa! When Halifax's Salsa Picante took the stage at the Marquee on Friday, March 3, everyone got up and danced. Couples who had learned to cha-cha-cha at social dance class stopped arguing about what foot to start on, and even the punk-ass bus boys who played a show with Deep Woods a couple of weeks ago couldn't help but be moved by Salsa Picante's infectious sound.

Salsa Picante will play again this Saturday at the North Street Church, this time in a benefit show in support of the Nova Scotia-Cuba Association.

NSCuba is an important supporter of Los Primos — a Nova Scotia-Cuba musical cooperation spearheaded by local jazz musician and Salsa Picante member Jeff Goodspeed. The seeds for Los Primos (which translates to "the cousins") were sown while Goodspeed was the Acadia Jazz Camp director. A student had just met

his new uncle — a saxophone player from Cuba! Goodspeed invited him to take part in the Acadia Jazz camp and the relationship was forged.

Raphael Quinones, a retired saxophone teacher from the Amadeo Roldan Conservatory in Havana, shared with the Nova Scotian students what it was like to be a musician in Cuba, teaching them Cuban street songs with Salsa rhythms, but also telling them of the real shortage of instruments in Cuba.

In the fall of 1997, Salsa Picante put on a fundraising dance, with the objective of buying instruments to send to Cuban music schools. Soon, people began to call with donations of instruments, which Musicstop offered to recondition for free.

On his first trip to Cuba, Goodspeed was able to deliver over 20 instruments to young Cuban musicians. It was then that he heard the band of 12 teenagers that his friend Raphael Quinones had assembled for the occasion.

"They were called 'The Kids from Cuba' and they were incredible," said Goodspeed.

Arrangements were made for the young musicians to come to Nova Scotia in the summer of

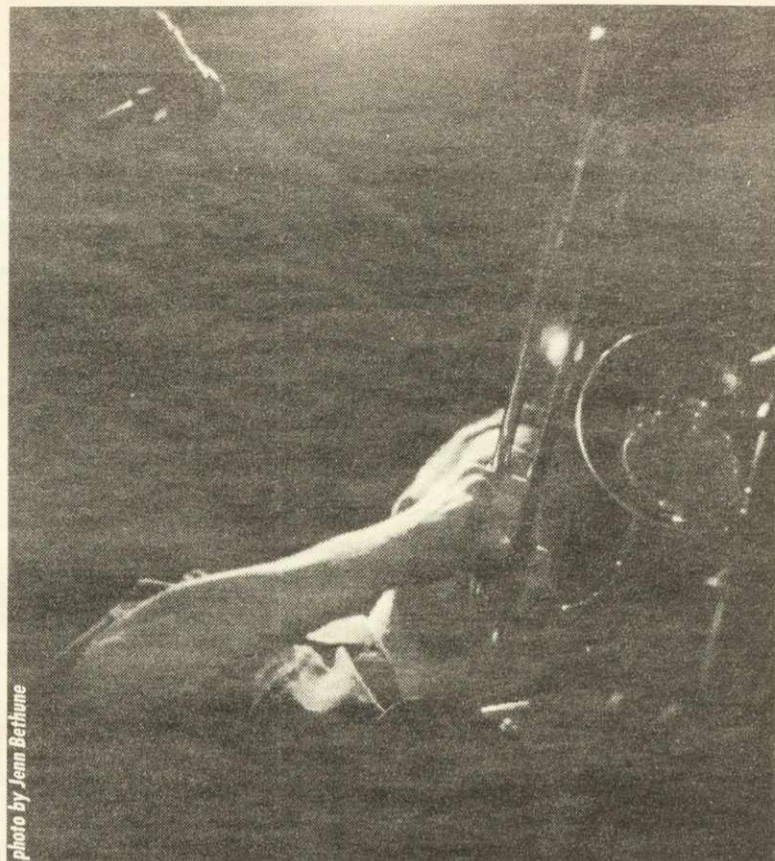


photo by Jenn Bethune

1998. Instrument and cash donations, as well as corporate sponsorships continue, and Goodspeed is now working towards another Los Primos visit to Nova Scotia this summer.

Although Goodspeed has managed to deliver over 70 instruments to Cuban music students, there remains a need. So if you haven't picked up your trumpet since grade eight band class, consider donating it to the Los Primos project. Dona-

tions of musical instruments (even broken ones, which can be reconditioned, or used for parts), music books and manuscript paper can be dropped off at Musicstop on the corner of Cunard and Hunter streets in Halifax. Cash donations, as well as over-the-counter medicines and clothes are also gladly accepted.

For more information check out the Los Primos website at [www.losprimos.com](http://www.losprimos.com).

# Neuseiland

continued from page 13

early '90s Halifax sound, for which they can claim considerable credit.

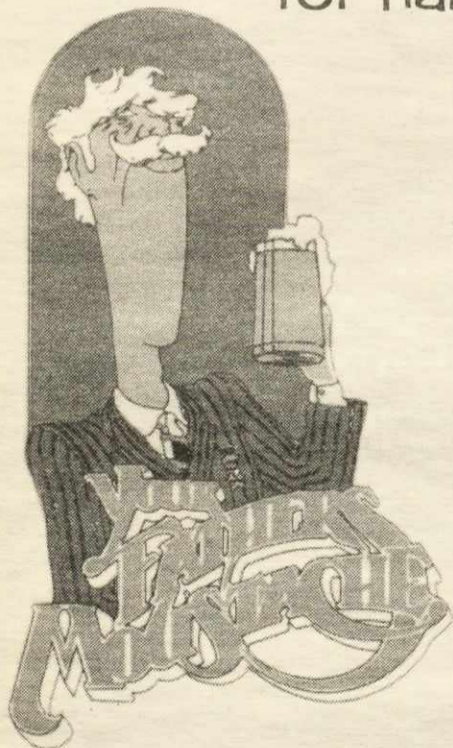
In Hali-pop-explosion fashion, I particularly appreciated the ability of the various members to switch instruments amongst one another. This shows not only their versatility but also the lack of a creative hierarchy within the band. One gets the sense that each member contributes equally to the overall product and there are no egos to

hinder the creativity of each artist. When I later interviewed them I found this to certainly be the case.

What I enjoyed most about the show was the skilled and emotional involvement drumming of Joel Plaskett. His flailing style rarely leaves a cymbal at rest and provides an energy and complexity to their overall sound. Says Plaskett, "The bass follows the drums and the drummer tries not to get in the way of the vocals. But when the singer is finished, he solos his ass off."



Buy an Entree  
and a regular size  
Coca-Cola product  
at regular price &  
receive any appetizer  
for half price



Must present coupon.  
Expires March 29th, 2000.

Enjoy  
**Coca-Cola**



PURCHASE A  
**2 PIECE FISH & CHIPS  
& A 600ML  
COCA-COLA PRODUCT**  
& RECEIVE THE 2ND ENTREE  
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE  
& A 600ML COCA-COLA PRODUCT  
**FOR HALF PRICE!**



Coupon required

