



nolose

PRESS KIT 2026

A 16-piece Cuban salsa orchestra, founded in Switzerland in 2004

Montreux Jazz Festival · Havana · Bogotá · Athens

► Watch 'Alegría Hoy', live at JazzAscona

JazzAscona, 2025

NOLOSÉ SALSA IN BRIEF

Twenty-two years on stage, from Lausanne to Havana

Nolosé's sixteen musicians come from Cuba, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Poland and Switzerland. They write their own songs, borrowing their harmonies from jazz and their tumbao from salsa, and took them to Havana to record.

16

musicians from six countries

500

concerts since 2004

8

records since 2007, one of
them cut in Havana

6

appearances at the Montreux
Jazz Festival, 2007 to 2018

3

awards and a nomination, from
Havana to Cali

8 to 16

musicians on stage, to suit the
venue

THE LONG STORY, SHORT

Nolosé, an urban salsa *picante* that sends a shiver down your spine

Casked in Lausanne in 2004: amber music distilled in jazz cellars, with devilishly fine legs. Nolosé did not grow up, like the heroes of salsa, in Havana or the Bronx: the Bronx grew up in Nolosé. Havana has since opened its studios to the band all the same.

The band has found a style, a sound, handbooks of bewitchment; it has its rhythms, its harmonies, its warmth. Everything in all the right places: a rhythm section, voices and horns. Sixteen musicians, sixteen arsonists. After a well-behaved childhood, the band fell, ever so gently, into bad company, dropping the nice little tune to armour-plate its *corazón*. Jazz had made itself at home there, bringing its retinue of freedoms and a hell of a groove: everyone gives, nobody takes, and the salsa takes fire. Spiced with soul, hip-hop or R&B, this music in mutation, this *mutazic*, sends a shiver down your spine. You may lose your Latin, but you'll gain your Latino.

Its homeland lays on its finest stages: the Montreux Jazz Festival six times over, JazzAscona, Caliente! in Zurich. And it did take flight: eight vintages, one of them laid down at the Radio Progreso studios in Havana and crowned with the Premio Internacional at Cubadisco 2014; eight concerts in seven days in Bogotá; the clubs of Athens. Nolosé (*No lo sé*, literally 'I don't know') is, in no particular order: a Puerto Rican night, a sonic orchid, a colossal wedding party, a pirate algorithm, an *algoblues*. A hypersonic freighter, now boarding. Further even than Cuba, it takes you to the land of Frenzy.



THE SOUND

A repertoire the colour of Havana

The band plays its own songs alongside Cuban standards, all arranged for sixteen musicians, and has released eight records since 2007. It takes its cue from Havana D'Primera and Los Van Van. Live, it also plays salsa's great classics and shapes the set to the occasion, whether a dance night, a sit-down concert or a village fête.

Son cubano

Everything the band plays grows out of it.

Rumba & guajira

'Soy la Rumba' and 'Guajira: Sous le Vent' strike an earthier note.

Salsa & timba

Most of the night lives here: horns up front and a montuno that builds and builds.

Danzón & Latin jazz

'Danzón en Primavera' keeps faith with tradition. The jazz runs all the way from the band's first demo, cut at Lausanne's jazz school, to Montreux.

Four voices; two trumpets, two trombones and a saxophone; piano, bass and tres; bongos, guiro, congas, drums and timbales.

8

Compact line-up

10

Full line-up

12

Salsa orchestra

12 to 16

Big Band Salsa



The horns at JazzAscona



Trombones in the smoke · © Stefanie Gilgen



Montreux Jazz Festival · © Cuénoud



Haila Mompié, 2018

ON STAGE

Home and away

ABROAD

Havana, 2013

Five weeks in Cuba, playing the Havana Jazz Festival and recording an album at the Radio Progreso studios.

Athens, 2015

The Half Note jazz club first, then two weeks touring the Greek islands, from Spetses to Zakynthos.

Colombia, 2018

An eight-concert tour that took in the Bogotá Timba Fest, where Haila Mompié joined the band on stage.

IN SWITZERLAND

Montreux Jazz Festival

Six appearances between 2007 and 2018.

JazzAscona

Played in 2023, invited back in 2025.

Caliente!, Zurich

On the 2024 bill.

LakeLive, Biel/Bienne

2023.

Stimmen Festival, Ettiswil

2026.

Chorus, Lausanne

The jazz club where Nolosé got its name has booked the band every year since 2004.

Geneva, 2014

Opening for El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico.

THEY'VE PLAYED WITH NOLOSÉ

More than 60 musicians since 2004, some of them among the finest players of their instrument



Hector Martignon

PIANO

Twice Grammy-nominated as a bandleader, he spent eight years as Ray Barretto's pianist and arranger. He has composed for Nolosé and toured Greece with the band in 2015.



Juan Manguía

TRUMPET

He held the lead trumpet chair in Irakere, Chucho Valdés's orchestra, for fifteen years, then went on to play across Europe.



Haila Mompié

VOCALS

Once a singer with Bamboleo and the voice of Azúcar Negra, she sings on 'La rumba soy yo', winner of the 2001 Latin Grammy for Best Folk Album. At the 2018 Bogotá Timba Fest she sang fifteen of her songs with Nolosé.



Christos Rafalides

VIBRAPHONE

A New York vibraphonist whose credits include Wynton Marsalis at Lincoln Center. He wrote pieces for Nolosé and joined Hector Martignon on the band's 2015 tour of Greece.



Mambi Eulogio Arguelles

CONGAS

Born in Havana, he trained on the batá drums. According to the Montreux Jazz Festival, he toured Europe with Chucho Valdés and Adalberto Álvarez.



Maykel Blanco y su Salsa Mayor

TIMBA ORCHESTRA

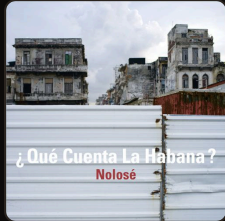
Maykel Blanco, founder of Havana's Festival de la Salsa, leads this band from the Cuban capital. Nolosé shared the stage with them when they came to Switzerland in 2017.

SHARED THE BILL WITH

El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico (Geneva, 2014) · Havana D'Primera · Lázaro Valdés y Bamboleo · La 33

AWARDS

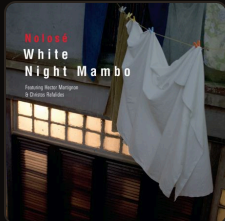
Three awards and a nomination



2014

Premio Internacional, Cubadisco, Havana

For the album '¿Qué Cuenta La Habana?', recorded in Havana the year before. Cubadisco is Cuba's answer to the Grammys.



2016

Best production of the year, Cali, Colombia

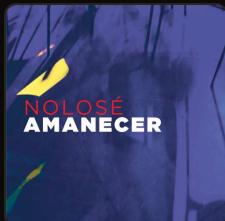
For 'White Night Mambo', spotted by DJ Yami Perlaza; the city's salsa stations kept it on air for months.



2009

Best live album in Switzerland, Top Trock association

For 'Live at Chorus', recorded over two nights at the Lausanne club.



2018

Nomination, best Swiss salsa composition

For the EP 'Amanecer'.

ON AIR

'Tres Palabras', sung by the Cuban vocalist Doris Lavin, made the Salsa Magistral countdown on Cali's Javeriana 107.5 FM in September 2016.

IN THE PRESS

'Nolosé a fait briller sa salsa jazzy à Cuba'

Swiss daily *24 Heures*, 2014 ('Nolosé's jazzy salsa shone in Cuba')

Also covered by Cuba's *Granma* and, at home, by *Le Matin*, *Tribune de Genève*, *L'Hebdo* and *La Liberté*.

BOOKING

¡Ponle fuego con Nolosé!

Laurent Cuénoud

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WATCH

'Alegría Hoy', live at JazzAscona · youtube.com/NoloseSalsa

TECH RIDERS, STAGE PLANS, HD PHOTOS

nolosesalsa.com/en/pro-area

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