Estefania Núñez Villamandos — Long Bio

Estefania Núñez Villamandos is a Cuban pianist, film composer, and arranger whose distinct personal sound fuses Afro-Cuban rhythms, jazz, and cinematic influences. Her work bridges traditions across Cuban, Caribbean, jazz, and classical music, creating a deeply expressive and narrative-driven musical voice. A recent graduate of the Global Jazz Institute at Berklee College of Music, where she earned a Master of Music with a concentration in Global Jazz, Estefania's artistic practice explores the intersections of music, film, and social impact. Her thesis, *The Enigma of Misunderstood Minds*, investigates the role of musical and cinematic storytelling in challenging perceptions of mental health and fostering empathy.

In 2025, Estefania was selected to participate in the Panama Jazz Festival, where she performed and led clinics and masterclasses, further expanding her role as both performer and educator on an international stage. She has also been featured in major festivals and cultural events including the Vermont Jazz Festival, the Charles River Jazz Festival—where she appeared as a guest artist representing the Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice, the Cambridge Jazz Festival, and the Tito Puente Latin Music Series. Most recently, she performed at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston as part of the Jazz Urbane Café celebration.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Estefania began studying piano at the age of six, developing a strong foundation in classical performance and music theory. She later received a full scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music, where she completed her undergraduate studies with specializations in Film Scoring, Piano Performance, Mixing, and Production. Upon graduation, she participated in Rashid Johnson's art installation *Antoine's Organ* at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, an experience that sparked her continued interest in interdisciplinary and

museum-based performance work. She also had the privilege of performing at the Berklee Annual Encore Gala with a personal project representing her Cuban heritage.

A sought-after and versatile artist, Estefania has collaborated with internationally recognized musicians including Aida Cuevas, Daymé Arocena, Harold López-Nussa, Miguelito Núñez, Aldo López-Gavilán, Liuba María Hevia, David Torrens, Pablo Milanés, Egberto Gismonti, Luis Represas, Neil Leonard, Arturo O'Farrill, Jorge Drexler, Eguie Castrillo, Oskar Cartaya, Ray Vega, and Tony Cintrón. She has performed at renowned venues such as The Blue Note in New York, the Peabody Essex Museum, and the Norton Museum of Art, and has toured throughout the United States and Spain.

As a film composer, Estefania has scored short films and documentaries featured at prestigious festivals, including the Women in Animation NYC Film Festival and various international events. Alongside her work for screen, she continues to develop original music projects that reflect her cross-genre approach and storytelling sensibility.

She is also the founder and bandleader of **Mestizas**, a project through which she has toured the United States and Spain, performing their latest EP, *El Alma de la Olvidada*, which reimagines forgotten songs with a fresh twist. The group is currently recording and producing their next album, marking a new era with a rebranded identity and a more instrumental approach.

Short Bio

Estefania Núñez Villamandos is a Cuban pianist, film composer, and arranger whose work blends Afro-Cuban rhythms, jazz, and cinematic influences into a deeply expressive and narrative-driven sound. A graduate of the Global Jazz Institute at Berklee College of Music, where she earned a Master of Music in Global Jazz, her work explores the intersection of music, film, and social impact through projects such as her thesis *The Enigma of Misunderstood Minds*.

An active performer and educator, she has appeared at major festivals including the Panama Jazz Festival, Vermont Jazz Festival, Charles River Jazz Festival, and the Cambridge Jazz Festival, and has performed at venues such as the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston and The Blue Note in New York. She has collaborated with renowned artists including Aida Cuevas, Daymé Arocena, Harold López-Nussa, Arturo O'Farrill, and others.

Estefania is also the founder and bandleader of Mestizas, with whom she has toured internationally and is currently recording a new album that reflects a reimagined, more instrumental direction.