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## **Bellita y Jazz Tumbatá to showcase their talent at Jazz Artists on the Greens, TOBAGO**

Bellita and her group JazzTumbatá will be returning to Tobago to be part of the second Jazz Artists on the Green on Saturday, 25 April at Pigeon Point Heritage Park from 8:00 p.m.. The show, produced by Production One Ltd. <<http://www.productiononelttd.com>> is part of the Tobago Jazz Experience; the week of events organised by the Tobago House of Assembly since the demise of the CL Communication produced Plymouth Jazz Festival.

Lilia Expósito Pino (a.k.a. Bellita) is a rarity in the male-dominated Cuban-jazz movement. A successful female band leader and top instrumentalist schooled in the "Nova Trove" movement of the 60's and 70's, she combines a driving, sparkling keyboard style with funky vocal unisons à la Tania Maria, delivered with Afro-Cuban sensuality. When Bellita sings, she radiates her Cuban roots. She and her quintet, one of the foremost on the contemporary Cuban music scene, create a special sound that reflects a refreshing perspective of Cuban jazz fusion by incorporating elements of both modern and traditional Cuban music flavored by the Brazilian Bossa Nova.

Recently, Bellita performed in Havana, Cuba in the monthly free music series in Havana's Plaza Cultural Center. *HavanaTimes.org* writer, Irina Echarry had this to say about her and her band:

“For Lillia Expósito, what’s most important is the music. It emanates from her soul, as she charismatically shares it with all who listen. This excellent singer, better known as “Bellita”—a composer and arranger, a woman of international fame in the world of the jazz...

“When the music begins at 7:00 in the evening, it seems that you’re transported to a universe where energy, vigor and dynamism are the forces that govern. Themes of traditional Cuban music fuse with jazz. Moreover, it’s in such a way that you might think that Bellita is possessed by some music god, and that this deity has also touched each member of her group. Her band includes Emir Santa Cruz (playing sax and clarinet), Glenda López (flute, claves and voice), José Alberto Varona (trumpet), and Eddie Hernández (on drums). Though each demonstrates their mastery in their respective solos, Miguel “Octopus” Miranda is the most acclaimed.

“Able to play up to four instruments simultaneously, he is able to capture admiration and euphoric screams from anybody close up. This occurred during his interpretation of the Billie Childs’ original *Like Father, Like Son*, when the “Octopus” clearly demonstrated how he got his nickname.”

One can enjoy “the contagious happiness that this group transmits” when Bellita y JazzTumbatá perform at Jazz Artists on the Greens on April 25 at Pigeon Point Heritage Park from 8:00 p.m. Also appearing on the cast are Mungal Patasar & Pantar and Élan Parlé from Trinidad, and CaneFire from Canada.

Tickets are \$250.00 and are available at Stecher's mall outlets, Nigel R. Khan-Bookseller mall outlets nationwide, all Penny Savers and R.T. Morshead in Tobago. Tickets and further information are also available online at the events website, <http://www.jaotg.org>

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