

Alex Cuba and Friends

Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 8:00 pm

This is the 713th concert in Koerner Hall

Alexis Punetes (Alex Cuba), guitars & lead vocals

Hilario Durán, piano

Valentin Puentes, guitar

Jose Sanchez, percussion & vocals

Ian Olmstead, bass & vocals

Jake Jenne, drums & vocals

Patrice Barbanchon, trumpet

Alexis Baro, trumpet

Chris Butcher, trombone

Alex Cuba

Though raised in Artemisa, an hour outside of Havana, Alex Cuba's artistry is as far-flung as the place he has settled and lived for over 10 years: Smithers, BC, 14 hours north of Vancouver. His music at once incorporates his roots and is a unique amalgam of styles. He has collaborated with peers ranging from Nelly Furtado and Jason Mraz to Ron Sexsmith and Jim Cuddy, bringing together melodies, popsoul hooks, and rock chords in songs that bear little resemblance to traditional Cuban form.

A forward-thinking, indie-minded artist, he has amassed a steadily growing following among critics and fans. With over 20 awards and nominations to his name, including four Latin Grammy and two Juno Awards, Alex Cuba remains a small town supporter and champion of originality as well as big hair.

Over the course of five albums, he has explored and expanded on Cuban influences of soviet-era Cuba in the 70s and 80s with its focus on nueva trova and jazz. His newest offering, *Lo Unico Constante* (The One Constant), sits comfortably between worlds and reflects on the intimate beauty of the guitar and vocals, back to the heart of the songwriting craft. Uplifting and bright to soulful and philosophical, the songs will speak to the listener through melody as well as lyrics.

Alex Cuba carries his Cuba with subtle jazz influences and tastefully sophisticated chords as well as lyrics that expresses his poetry in an undeniably Cuban way. To this special, only in Keorner Hall concert, he brings music from the new album, released a day before this concert, along with previous songs with some special guests to make the show very unique in time and place.

Mr. Cuba is made his Royal Conservatory debut on November 9, 2012.

Please join us for a postlude performance in the Leslie & Anna Dan Galleria.