

Cuba Educational Travel and the Trombone Shorty Foundation present:
“GETTING FUNKY IN HAVANA”
A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE IN CUBA
January 14-18th, 2020

For more information and to register for the trip:

www.gettingfunkyinhavana.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - A once-in-a-life opportunity to experience the music and culture of Havana, Cuba will take place in January 2020. The Trombone Shorty Foundation, Cuba Educational Travel and the Havana Jazz Festival are partnering to present “Getting Funky in Havana,” a five-day cultural exchange trip (January 14-18th) featuring New Orleans’ **Tank and the Bangas** and **The Soul Rebels** joining forces with Cuba’s musical tour-de-force, **Cimafunk**, to create an unforgettable concert series accompanied by immersive VIP cultural experiences with Cuban artists and musicians.

“After visiting Havana for the Jazz Festival in January and having my mind blown over and over again by the talent and spirit of Cuba’s music and people, I was determined to get back down there and bring along some friends,” says Trombone Shorty Foundation Executive Director, Bill Taylor. “And it’s come together better than I could have ever imagined. Join us!”

The “Getting Funky in Havana” trip will feature a nightly concert series with a final, collective performance that brings together the music of New Orleans and Cuba in a powerful expression of the sound and soul these two special places share. All the participating musicians, both from Cuba and New Orleans, come from deeply-rooted traditions dating back hundreds of years. While they all respect and honor that heritage, they also look to the future by embedding their music with fresh perspectives.

“Our visit to New Orleans was one of the highlights of my musical career,” says Erik “Cimafunk” Rodriguez, who performed a sold-out show at Tipitina’s in April and will be returning on Thursday, November 14th as well as serving as host to the participants in the “Getting Funky In Havana” trip. “I can’t wait to return the favor and show my American brothers and sisters the richness of my country’s culture.”

The Soul Rebels:

“We’re very honored for the opportunity to travel to Cuba, to celebrate our music and cultures. New Orleans and Cuba share many commonalities; the importance of tradition, spirituality, art

and a deep quality of soul within our music. Both New Orleans and Cuban cultures have profound creative legacies while experiencing hardship and challenges,” said the Soul Rebels. “We’re blessed to have this opportunity, and to continue to work with our musical brother CimaFunk, whom we greatly respect and admire. We brought CimaFunk into our world when he landed in New Orleans, and we’re overjoyed to immerse ourselves in his world when we land in Cuba!”

The Havana program will include access to all Havana Jazz Festival performances, the nightly “Getting Funky in Havana” concert series, daily jam sessions, as well as visits to local schools and community projects. This unique trip is heavily focused on supporting the Cuban people as well as a group of young New Orleans musicians from the Trombone Shorty Foundation who will travel with the bands. “Getting Funky in Havana” is supported by the **Gia Maione Prima Foundation**, a foundation dedicated to fostering music and the arts at a youth and community level, as well as **Horns to Havana**, a New York-based group that has been working with the music schools in Havana for the past 10 years.

Despite setbacks in the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Cuba, travel to the island by Americans remains legal, safe and incredibly rewarding. Participants in the “Getting Funky in Havana” program will travel to Cuba at an important and interesting moment and the bands and organizations involved will demonstrate why the historical, cultural and people-to-people ties between New Orleans and Havana bring our people together despite policies aimed at keeping them apart.

Additional Info

CimaFunk: Afro-Cuban funk that has turned the island upside down, Billboard’s “Cuban revelation of the year,” is eager to expand the fast-growing funk movement in Havana with his colleagues from New Orleans.

Tank and the Bangas: Winners of NPR’s 2017 Tiny Desk concert and AfroPunk Brooklyn’s 2016 Battle of the Bands, the lively fusion of funk, soul, hip hop, rock, and spoken word will have concert goers on their feet.

The Soul Rebels: New Orleans-bred staple The Soul Rebels expand musical boundaries with an unwavering commitment to originality by fusing hip hop, funk, jazz and soul with powerful horns and drums. Recent highlights include their new album *Poetry In Motion*, performances with Katy Perry, Nas and DMX, a feature on NPR Tiny Desk, an appearance on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, and a headlining set at the global TED Conference.

Cuba Educational Travel: CET is the leading organization arranging US travel to Cuba and events on the island with over a decade of experience and thousands of projects under its belt.

The Trombone Shorty Foundation: Founded by renowned New Orleans musician Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews, the foundation supports the city’s unique culture by preparing the next generation of performers for success in music and in life.

Havana International Jazz Plaza Festival: For over three decades, this festival has brought together musicians and music lovers from across the island and across the world, with Havana and New Orleans, and their strong musical connections, always front and center.

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