



2021-2022
MODLIN ARTS
PRESENTS

The Very Best in Music, Theatre, Dance, & Visual Arts



Sunday, October 17, 2021 | 7:30pm
Alice Jepson Theatre

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALK

Dr. Mike Davison leads a pre-performance conversation with Cimafunk at 6:30pm

[MODLIN.RICHMOND.EDU](https://modlin.richmond.edu)



This engagement is supported in part by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and the Cultural Affairs Committee.



PROGRAM NOTES

Cimafunk's newest album, *El Alimento*, is aptly named, since the Spanish term means "nourishment." The Cuban vocalist and composer Cimafunk, who sounds like a young Benny Moré, has blended American and Cuban sounds creating another dish, reminiscent of the late 1960s blending of American jazz with Cuban son called *salsa dura*. However, this is not the first time this rhythmic partnership has flourished. The co-mingling of Afro-Cuban rhythms with African-American rhythms began in New Orleans during the late 19th century, and continues on to this day. One can find the Cuban *cinquillo* rhythm in Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" and a swinging *habanera* bassline in Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog." Even today, one can hear the Cuban *clave* rhythm in many American pop tunes, including hits like Adele's "Send My Love (To Your New Lover)," Ariana Grande's "Into You," and the recent hit by Tate McRae & Khalid, titled "Working." Cuba is one of the superpowers of popular music: the island country not only blended the rhythms of Africa into their music and created over 25 indigenous different styles, but exported and blended their rhythms with American popular music 90 miles across the Florida Straits. In the '50s *mambo* took New York's Palladium Ballroom by storm and the *cha-cha-cha* was danced in living rooms across America. One should not be surprised that this co-mingling is happening again. When hearing Cimafunk's music, one thinks of a mix between George Clinton's Parliament Funkadelic and James Brown. Cimafunk is creating new sounds, but respecting the past: his recent videos reveal the group's sound entrenched in the Cuban *clave*, but showing a new blend, reminiscent of the past Cuban innovators of popular music, including Pérez Prado, Mario Bauzá, Cachao López, and Chano Pozo. Cimafunk has united the Afro-Cuban and African-American rhythmic tendencies once again. He has heard our American brand of funk, assimilated the sound, added a little Cuban contemporary flavor - *timba*, and created his own *muy caliente* style. While growing up in Pinar del Rio – a town west of Havana – he listened to many of the classic Cuban musical styles (like *rumba*, *son*, *danzón*, and *trova*), but also heard music from America when he watched TV programs like *De la Gran Escena*, (*The Big Scene*) and heard Tom Jones, Phil Collins, Sting, and other American pop stars. Cimafunk has burst on the scene, and it is time that we all take a little "alimento" from his music.

Dr. Mike Davison

Professor of Music

University of Richmond

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ABOUT CIMAFUNK

Cimafunk is one of the most exciting new faces in the Latin music space, and a pioneer in bringing Afro-Cuban funk to the world. Singer, composer, and producer, the young Cuban sensation offers a subtle and bold mix of funk with Cuban music and African rhythms, which is currently revolutionizing the island's music scene.

Cimafunk is a cimarrón*, a free being defying classification, a pilgrim in search of new musical miscegenation and the reunion of Black music. He believes in nothing but the power of the Groove and the cathartic communion of dancing bodies. A renaissance man, conscious of his roots and musical ancestry. Cimafunk's music looks firmly into the future.

His debut album *Terapia* (Independent Production, 2017) put him on the Cuban music scene with a splash, including the single "Me Voy," a major hit in Cuba and its catchy refrain, which now is part of pop culture and used by Cubans of all ages each time they depart somewhere. Cimafunk has built a strong fan base internationally through his electric live shows - he rocks the stage with eight accompanying musicians, which he has used to conquer a multitude of audiences from Havana and New York to Madrid and Paris.

El Alimento, Cimafunk's sophomore album, was released October 8, 2021 and includes exciting collaborations with U.S. funk and hip hop legends, leading Afro-Latino artists, and some Cuban stars.

His video clip of "Me Voy" won the 2018 Lucas Awards in the category "Most Popular Video." *Billboard Magazine* selected him among the "10 Latin Artists to follow in 2019." NPR listed "El Potaje" as No. 6 best song of 2019.

**Fugitive slaves who settled in the wild to lead a free life in Cuba.*

Singer & Director: Cimafunk
Drummer & Musical Director: Dr. Zapa
Percussionist: Machete
Bassist: Caramelo
Guitarist: Bejuco
Pianist: Arthurito e_el "Wao"
Saxophonist: Katy Cacao
Trombonist / Back-up Singer: Hilaria Cacao
Minor Percussionist / Back-up Singer: Big Happy

 /cimafunk  /cimafunkofficial

CIMAFUNK.COM



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