

Colombia Applauds Cuban Jazz Musician Chucho Valdés

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Accompanied by his current group Afro-Cuban Messengers and singer Mayra Caridad Valdés, composer and pianist of 74 years, was cheered last weekend by hundreds in the downtown theater Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, performance in which the public heard also pieces of his latest album **Border Free**.

It was amazing reception from the public, sang together some of the issues, I am very happy, told Prensa Latina instrumentalist, known as one of the icons of Latin jazz.

Chucho had to return to the stage after completing the function, at the request of the attendees who did not stop cheering until his return.

I've been in Colombia for about 20 times in my career and I have always received a very warm manner, I'm very happy about that, he added.

Commenting on his plans for 2015 commented that he will tour Brazil, Europe and the United States, in addition to preparing his next album **Irakere XXI century**.

He said it will be a resume idea behind emblematic songs of the band as *Bacalao con Pan*, but to be executed by young talents, a production which should be ready for this year.

According to the composer numbers that will integrate the new album will be recorded in France during a live concert.

Chucho Valdés was recognized as a successful pianist since age 20, later founded Irakere, where he began a project to rescue and revere the musical roots of his native island.

Its global revelation as a prominent exponent and innovator of international jazz movement and particularly its Afro-Cuban side, occurred in Warsaw Jamboree Festival, held in 1970.

In 2006 he was appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations for Food and Agriculture (FAO).

He has three Latin Grammy and 86 albums.