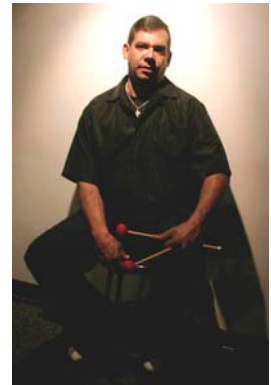


Steve Pouchie Biography

By Tomas Peña

Steve Pouchie is a man of many talents. Among other things he is an accomplished musician, band leader, producer of the "Latin Jazz Alive and Kickin'" music cable show, and an award winning Music and Technology educator.

Steve was born to Puerto Rican parents and raised in New York City, where he attended Stuyvesant High School. He received a full scholarship to Bard College with the intention of pursuing a career in Economics, however at Bard, Steve met teacher and jazz trombonist **Roswell Rudd**, who inspired him to study music and become a vibraphonist. He graduated with a BA in Economics and Associate's Degree in Music.



In 1993, after working 12 years in corporate sales, Steve took a position as a music teacher in a middle school in the Bronx and after three successful years, Steve was offered the position of **Performing Arts Coordinator** at Walton High School. It was there that he developed one of the first Digital Piano Labs, and a student run recording studio. His work was so effective that in 2004, Steve was awarded the distinguished **New York Post Liberty Medal** for his outstanding work as an educator. According to New York City's **Mayor Michael Bloomberg**, who presented Steve his medal, "These men and women have made important contributions to their community through time, work, talent and wisdom."

Despite the demands of being an educator, Steve, always eager to play with his ensemble, continued to develop musically by performing at colleges, restaurants, night clubs, political events and outdoor concerts. He has played with or opened for an array of established musicians, including Tito Puente, Charlie Palmieri, Jimmy Sabater, Dave Valentin, Bobby Sanabria, and many others. In 2002 Steve released his first CD "Vibe Mania".

Around the same time, Steve enrolled in a television production course at the BRONXNET Cable Network in order to document and assist in popularizing Latin Jazz music on a broader scale. After completing the course he teamed up with his wife, Naomi (who assumed the role of host/interviewer) to create the cable series, ***Latin Jazz Alive and Kickin'***, which is watched by thousands of music lovers weekly in the N.Y.C. area weekly. The show captures New York's vibrant music scene through the use of live performances and interviews with many of the most prominent artists in the history of Latin music: **Tito Puente**, Celia Cruz, Ray Barretto, Johnny Pacheco, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Joe Cuba, Jimmy Sabater, Jose Mangual Jr., Dave Valentin, Andrea Brachfeld, Wilson "Chembo" Corniel, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra and many others. In 2004, *Latin Jazz Alive and Kickin'* received the BETA award for being one of the most watched and longest-running show on Public Access television in the Bronx.

Today Steve divides his time between his work as an educator and his passion for music. In recent days he has been collaborating with Little Johnny Rivero, Andrea Brachfeld, Ivan Renta and other known Latin Jazz musicians in the New York area to create his second CD which is entitled "***El Puente***" (*The Bridge*). The recording features a variety of classic compositions as well as new, original material. More importantly, it reflects Steve's growth as a leader, musician, composer, arranger and producer.

Over the years Steve has been called "A Quiet Hero" by The New York Post, and the "Puerto Rican Cal Tjader," by musicologist Max Salazar, however, the titles fail to capture the versatility and creative direction of Steve Pouchie. While many people in Steve's position would be content to rest on their past accomplishments, Steve is on the move, perfecting his craft, planning his next project and tirelessly dedicating his time and talent to his music and community.