

Jazz guitarist Francisco Quintero (b. 1991, Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela) has been part of the American jazz scene in Boston, Chicago, New York City and Washington D.C since 2008. He has taken part as a leader and accompanist in musical projects that range from recording sessions, appearances at festivals and elite music venues, and teaching at several respected institutions in the nation. Francisco has performed with an impressive list of top contemporary artists including Victor Provost, Tedd Baker, Alain Mallet, Antonio Orta, Camille Thurman, Derrick Gardner, Paul Carr, Al Strong, Carl Allen, Peter Bernstein, Geof Bradfield, Reggie Thomas, Marlene Rosenberg, Elijah Jamal Balbed, Lenny Robinson, Harold Summey, Herman Burney Jr., Brian Settles, Ari Brown, Bryan Carter, Christopher McBride, Ben Williams, Thad Wilson, Quincy Phillips, Kris Funn, Fareed Haque, and more.

Before coming to the U.S., Francisco led critical roles as a prolific musician in his home country. He studied with renowned guitarist Richard Perez before he began his performing career in major cities such as Caracas, Maracay and Barquisimeto. While in Venezuela, Francisco performed with jazz stars Pablo Gil, Andres Briceno, Gustavo Caruci, Olegario Diaz, Rafael Greco, Benito Gonzalez, Manuel Merette, Fernando Freitez, Linda Briceno, Roberto Koch, The Simon Bolivar Big Band and with other well-known groups outside the jazz genre such as GRAMMY winner band Guaco, Victor Manuel, Oscarcito, among others. Francisco performed as a leader and accompanist for these artists in the most well-known festivals in the country, Festival Internacional de Jazz de Barquisimeto (Barquisimeto International Jazz Festival), Festival de Jazz de Musica Oculta (Musica Oculta Jazz Festival) and Festival de Jazz de Naguanagua (Naguanagua Jazz Festival). During this time he was also a guest clinician for prestigious music institutions among which were Conservatorio Emilio Sojo, Musica Oculta Jazz Festival and Conservatorio del Estado Aragua. His work was featured in well-respected magazines and newspapers in the country such as “El Impulso”, “Revista Emprededor” and “El Siglo”.

In 2009, Francisco travelled to the U.S to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, from which he graduated with a Music Performance Bachelor’s Degree and Summa Cum Laude honors. The degree was granted by Honorary Doctorate recipients, The Eagles, Alison Krauss and Mulatu Astatke. At Berklee he was nominated for the Best Guitar Student award of 2010, and was mentored by international jazz stars such as Alain Mallet, Lin Biviano, Tomo Fujita, Richie Hart, Mike Stern, Adam Rogers, Jerry Bergonzi, Ed Tomassi and by master guitarist Peter Bernstein in New York City. He led a successful performing career in the city with artists such as John Baboian and the Be-Bop Guitars, Alain Mallet and The Santiago Bosch Group, and as a leader for the Francisco Quintero Quartet and Duo. He performed at the Berklee Performance Center, The Lily Pad, Ryles Jazz Club, The Beantown Jazz Festival, Wally’s Jazz Café, The Beehive and more. During this time, he also served as a music instructor for Boston School of Guitar. Around this time, Francisco was chosen by Berklee College of Music to travel to Freiburg, Germany, where he spent 4 months playing in the area and neighboring countries (France, Italy, Switzerland) with renowned European jazz bassist German Kleiber. Highlights include performing at Jazzhaus in Freiburg, a legendary club in Southern Germany known for having hosted the legendary artists such as Miles Davis.

In 2013, he returns to his home country and caught up to what he had left off before leaving for the U.S, highlights of this time include performances with Pablo Gil and Andres Briceno, Rafael Greco, Benito Gonzalez, as a leader at the Musica Oculta Jazz Festival with the Francisco Quintero Duo and Quartet,

and also producing and arranging for well-known pop bands. Francisco arranged and produced a full-length DVD release for the band *Zignia* featuring singer Ariana Dao, a finalist at the 2009 Latin American Idol show transmitted and produced by Sony Entertainment Television.

In 2015, Francisco returns to the U.S. after being discovered by guitarist Fareed Haque, a professor in the well-known jazz department at Northern Illinois University. Francisco was granted a full-scholarship and graduate assistantship, which consisted of teaching workshops, directing ensembles and running a Jazz History course for undergraduates. Francisco graduated with a Master's Degree in Jazz Studies in 2017.

During this time he performed at the top venues and festivals in Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison. He was a member of the Ari Brown Band, a legendary Chicago jazz saxophonist, Geof Bradfield, Reggie Thomas, Corey Wilkes, Lenard Simpson, Marlene Rosenberg, Bobby Irwin III, Derrick Gardner, Carl Allen and many more. He performed at the Chicago Jazz Festival, The Glenn Ellyn Jazz Festival, the Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival and the Elmhurst Jazz Festival, The Jazz Estate, Andy's Jazz Club, Winter's Jazz Club, The Jazz Showcase and the IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) Conference in Peoria, IL, in which he led a performance and conducted a jazz improvisation workshop.

After living in Chicago for two years, Francisco was offered a faculty position at the International School of Music in Washington D.C. Since his arrival, he has become a first-call musician for Victor Provost, Tedd Baker, Antonio Orta and many more, and has performed at the DC Jazz Festival, JoJo, Twins Jazz Club and Sotto, the busiest and most predominant venues in the scene. As a leader, Francisco released a duo album with renowned guitarist Manuel Reyes. *Duet* has been published in the U.S. through the most popular streaming services such as Apple Music, Spotify, CD Baby and Pandora, and has been featured internationally on radio shows and TV. Recently, it was featured on www.allaboutjazz.com as a new top release.

In 2017, Francisco was also hired to direct the jazz program created by Jazz Empowers at DC Scholars Public Charter School. Jazz Empowers, a non-profit organization with programs in New York City, Boston, D.C and Nashville, is well-known for its clear objectives: to provide a high-quality jazz program and instruction from some of the best musicians in the country to low-income schools. Francisco taught and directed the jazz band for a year, ending in May of 2018.

Currently, he continues to be an in-demand musician not only in his current city, Washington D.C, but also in Boston, Chicago, Milwaukee and New York City. His upcoming quartet record will feature pianist Reggie Thomas, a clinician for Jazz at Lincoln Center and house pianist for many well-known jazz artists and groups such as the current Count Basie Big Band.