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Manufacturing Montuno: Towards an Appreciation of the Evolution of Style in Montuno Piano Accompaniments in Cuban Dance Music; Lecture by Dean Craven

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Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



Manufacturing *Montuno*: Towards an Appreciation of the Evolution of Style in *Montuno* Piano Accompaniments in Cuban Dance Music Lecture by Dean Craven

Friday, May 31, 2019 | 12:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Green Library (GL) 220

Whether the music of the Miami Sound Machine and songs of Gloria Estefan, Ricky Martin's anthemic-ode to football during the 1998 FIFA World Cup, or the series finale by which Jennifer Lopez closed 2016's *American Idol*, the busy cycling arpeggios characteristic of *montuno* piano style are ubiquitous in much of the music we hear around us. In addition to appreciating some of the dynamics in which this improvisatory style of accompaniment emerged and how it evolved into the characteristic piano sound we can recognize in the *timba* tracks of Los Van Van or the salsa of Eddie Palmieri, this presentation will explore questions about the human agency involved, for example, in selecting a possible *tumbao* ostinato, modifying it harmonically, and shaping it in response to a range of improvisatory stimuli (including interaction with fellow musicians and the audience), as well as how we might start to develop a description of common principles in *montuno* production.

Dean Craven is a Ph.D. student in ethnomusicology at King's College, London, where he is studying the aesthetic decisions and improvisatory processes that sit behind the manufacture of *montuno*-style piano accompaniment. Recently seconded as the producer of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Craven also works in the broadcaster's Classical Music department, producing output as varied as the BBC Proms and WOMAD world music festival. He is one of the recipients of the 2019 Díaz-Ayala Library Travel Grants at FIU.

This lecture is free and open to the public.

To confirm your attendance and for more information, please call (305) 348-1991 or write cri@fiu.edu

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