

Big Band Keeps the Music Going

Havana Cuba All-Stars group will share its country's music in concert Nov. 29 at The Sharon.

By MICHAEL FORTUNA
Daily Sun Staff Writer

THE VILLAGES

About 90 miles away from Key West, the people of Cuba helped to create a type of music that won't allow you to sit still.

"Cuban music will make you want to dance, make you want to move," Michel Padron said. "This was the tradition of our grandfathers when this style was formed."

Padron's 11-piece band, the Havana Cuba All-Stars, will use everything from brass and percussion to violin, bass, and steel guitar to bring this vibrant music to life for a concert at 7 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

"These are some of the greatest musicians in the world, and I am humbled that they agree to play with me every night," said Padron, who plays trumpet. "(The show) will be a high-energy time that I know everyone will enjoy and want to keep dancing. I think you will be smiling when you leave the concert."

As for his favorite songs in the show, Padron can't point to any.



Submitted photo

The Havana Cuba All-Stars will bring the music of Cuba to life at 7 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

HAVANA CUBA ALL-STARS

The Havana Cuba All-Stars will perform at 7 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$25 to \$45 and are available at any Villages Box Office location or online at thesharon.com.

"This is our music, and I love all of it," Padron said.

This band has been around for 20 years under the name of

Asere. Padron and his friends grew up playing the music of their country, and he wanted to keep traditional Cuban music alive.

Since the band formed, Asere has traveled beyond Cuba, taking their music to Australia, Africa and Europe.

Padron grew up in a home filled with music — his father is a musician and an actor.

"I just kept going," Padron said.

Padron gravitated toward the sounds of jazz and rock, along with the sounds of Cuba. His father's love of the Who rubbed off on Padron.

He first learned the ways of

the piano when he was 8, then added the trumpet to his repertoire two years later.

After graduating from the Amadeo Roldan Conservatory, Padron joined the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba.

"(What I enjoy the most about music is) being able to express myself in a way that is beautiful and unique," Padron said. "Having people dance to our music makes it very special to me."

Michael Fortuna is a staff writer with *The Villages Daily Sun*. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 9299, or michael.fortuna@thevillagesmedia.com.