



BOB FRANCESCHINI
saxophones, arranger/composer

A Native New Yorker, born in 1961 to Puerto Rican parents, Bob began his musical education on piano at age five and picked up the saxophone at age 11.

One of his first professional gigs just after graduating was an engagement at a club owned by guitarist/singer George Benson. The band also featured Marcus Miller on bass, Omar Hakim on drums and guitarist Bobby Broom.

That led to further opportunities - such as a world tour with R&B diva Chaka Khan and recording dates, and gigs with Eddie Palmieri, Kenny Kirkland, Roland Vasquez, Michel Camilo, Jorge Dalto, Barry Rogers, Woody Shaw, Steve Ferrone and Anthony Jackson.

In 1986 Bob began touring and recording with Salsa great Willie Colon. Being in this group gave him the chance to dig in on his Puerto Rican roots and develop his playing and arranging skill in this rhythmically profound idiom.

In 1994 Bob joined a cooperative band, "Seis del Solar" the once back up band for singer/actor/politician Ruben Blades, they recorded an album and went on to tour the States, Europe, Latin America and most notably Cuba.

This band also did many workshops and clinics, and went on to become the musical backbone of Paul Simons' project - a Broadway show "Capeman" in 1998 for which he got to co-write some material with Mr. Simon.

In 1998 and 99 he was featured every week on saxes, flute and clarinets in the score music for H.B.O.'s hit show "Sex and the City", which are now in syndication worldwide. In 1999 a critically acclaimed recording and short world tour with "Timbalaye" featured his playing and composing. In '99 Bob also wrote a few national jingles around this time for MCI World Com and JC Penneys.

In 1999 Bob was asked to join guitarist Mike Stern (formerly with Miles Davis, Jaco Pastorius, Dave Sanborn) in his quartet for a world tour.

Bob is preparing for an album of his own to be recorded next year as well.

