

Cuico

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Links

www.cuico.de

facebook.com/cuicomusic

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Band biography

Cuico takes Hip Hop to another level. The band with its twelve members from all over the world unites beats from the heart of Hamburg and Spanish Rap, combined with Latin grooves, a solid Rock attitude, funky brass sounds and a flavour of Electro. The musicians have musical roots in very different genres - be it Jazz, Salsa, Samba, Folk, Metal, Classical Music or Pop - , so Cuico's songs are inspired by a variety of styles. Through these different musical and ethnical backgrounds, Cuico represents the notion of music as a multicultural melting pot. This idea is also reflected in the lyrics, which are concerned with both local and global issues of the musical industry, politics, racism, and the criticising of obstacles to peacefully living side by side.



Cuico was founded in Hamburg, Germany in 2010. Keyboarder René and bassist Arne, who were playing together in a Jazz combo, met Chilean rapper Ricardo at a New Year's Eve party. Ricardo, former frontman of the Hip Hop band Legua York who were highly successful in Latin America, had just moved to Germany and was looking for a new musical project. The idea of combining Spanish lyrics, Hip Hop Beats and influences from

other musical styles appealed to the three of them, which led to the decision to make an album, to be followed with a concert in Hamburg's famous Fabrik.

The next twelve months, they spent writing, recording and mixing the ten songs for the debut album *Seremos Ricos* in René's Toene und Woerter studios in the south of Hamburg. Many different musicians participated in the making of the album, while twelve of them, including the three founders, finally became regular members of the band. They have been playing together since their first concert in Fabrik in February 2012.

At the concert in February 2012, the album *Seremos Ricos* was released both on CD and on iTunes. The band has recently won 2nd prize in Hamburg's Emergenza-Bandcontest and has since been playing in popular locations in Hamburg including Knust, LOGO, Hafenklang and Markthalle and at the Nuevo-Sol-Festival near Rostock. They appeared on stage at the Rockspektakel and Lateinamerikafestival.

Band members



Ricardo - Vocals

Infinite thanks to Caro, who was the reason for Ricardo to leave his home country Chile to live in Hamburg with the love of his life. The two met while Ricardo was touring Germany with his former band Legua York (who have performed with Public Enemy in Latin America). Now Hamburg is blessed with the most gifted, witted and spirited rapper who is twisting ears and brains with his rhymes (and might inspire you to pick up on your Spanish classes).



Viviane - Vocals

A nighthawk with the most powerfully-lovely voice, Viviane (who has performed on every stage in Northern Germany - name a club, she's been there) brings on some sweet but dirty Lauryn-Hill-Bonnie-Tyler-Madonna-attitude, since blonde bitchy babes in Hip Hop bands are kind of outdated.



Michael - Guitar

Having graduated from the Hamburg School of Music, Michael kicks ass with his Van Halen technique with both Cuico and his other band Motus. He is one of the rare kind of guitarists who have the ability to switch within seconds from modest rhythm guitar to mind-blowing solos that may convince you that in fact a good Hip Hop song is nothing without a solid guitar solo.



Arne - Bass

Arne has a musical history that includes the saxophone, clarinette, guitar, piano, double bass and of course the bass, which is what he plays with Cuico, apart from writing the songs, organizing the gigs, managing the media, leading the rehearsals, all other kinds of organizational stuff the other members don't even have a clue about and keeping the whole bunch of weirdos together and happy.



René - Keys

Mostly working for the sound production of famous musicals all over Europe (including The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid) and teaching recording classes at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg, Cuico is René's playground for song-writing, producing, recording – and, going back to his roots – playing the black and white keys.



Aike - Keys

Aike loves Mozart, Debussy and her Nord Keyboard (which she, these days, even prefers to her Yamaha Grand). She bought the Nord because the keyboarder of Take That has one, and she's planning on replacing that guy. But somehow she got stuck with the Cuico boys, who might not be that good looking but appear to be the better musicians...



Christian - Trumpet

Christian is a big-band-solid-trumpeteer who by the way, at least so they say, does actually practise his instrument, by which the rest of the band are highly impressed, since he is one of the few members who have not studied music... though also one of the few who have a doctoral degree (what kind of doctoral degree is classified information since it is doubtful that it really is a cool thing to tell).



Yasmin - Sax

You might mistake her for a Latina, especially when you hear her chatter fluently in Spanish, but the mysterious beauty at the tenor sax is actually half Filipina. Yasmin is also a virtuosa at the clarinet, but you'll surely agree that there's nothing like a lady playing the horn.



Thomas - Trombone

If someone plays the trombone as smoothly as Thomas, you might not expect that he is also a superb pianist – a fact that the members of the band apparently are not really interested in, since more or less everyone knows how to play the piano and since the guys consider themselves lucky to have a fellow at the trombone who looks so exceedingly cool.



Tobias - Drums

Tobi can play any beat you can imagine and is therefore easily bored, which is why his bandmates try to keep him busy beside his numerous gigs which involve playing drums in Musicals at the Reeperbahn, cajon with his unplugged-band The Pockets, marimba in symphonic orchestras or even jazzy stuff which will not be mentioned in more detail because it makes the rest of the band very jealous.



Nis - Timbales

Go into some pub in Hamburg and you might find Nis singing while his guitar gently weeps; he has also had his affairs which involved double bass and Heavy Metal, but in his heart, he is actually a Timbalero – this he figured when he spent a few months studying percussion in Cuba. Since then, he has played Timbales, Conga and all other kinds of stuff that you can get Latin rhythms out of, and even several things at a time.



Olivier - Congas

Olivier is a danger to every percussionist because he just knows how to do it better. Trained as a classical drummer, he nowadays plays for all the famous musicals, including The Lion King, where he heats things up at the congas and the marimba. Thus it was a logical consequence for Cuico to get this king of percussion on board.

Album "Seremos ricos"



2011

Töne und Wörter Studio

LC 25529

1. Qué más
2. Seremos ricos
3. Girls, Girls
4. Nuevo día
5. Estoy aquí
6. Cambia las reglas
7. Una noche
8. Escucha tu corazón
9. Revolución sin flores
10. Cuico

Performances

Past

2012

03 February	Fabrik, Hamburg	CD release concert
21 March	Logo, Hamburg	Emergenza Band Battle, 1st round
19 April	Knust, Hamburg	Emergenza Band Battle, Semi-final
02 June	Markthalle, Hamburg	Emergenza Band Battle, Final
03 June	Rostock	Nuevo Sol festival
22 June	Hafenklang, Hamburg	
09 September	Rathausplatz, Hamburg	Rockspektakel festival
13 October	Völkermuseum, Hamburg	Lateinamerikafestival

Upcoming

2013

03 May	Holguín, Cuba	Las romerías del mayo festival
05 May	Bayamo, Cuba	
09 May	Santiago de Cuba	
07 June	Gesangsstudio Wandsbek, Hamburg	Gambare Nippon charity concert