



## BOOKING 2018 & 2019

**PAST TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Mississauga Celebration Square (Viva Pan Am) • Redlands Bowl • Libby Bowl • Lincoln Center (Hommy Musical) • American Folk Festival • Hugh's Room • First Canadian Place • Mundial Montreal • APAP • Broadway Centre • Complex Heritage Center • Savannah Music Festival • Lex & Fay Spanos Theatre • TD Victoria Jazz Festival • TD Vancouver Jazz Festival • Saskatchewan Jazz Festival • Montreal Jazz Festival • King's Playhouse • Salle du Citoyen • Wreckhouse Jazz & Blues Festival • Northern Lights Festival • L'association Le Moulin de la Baie • Halifax Jazz Festival • Sunfest • Kultrun World Music Festival • Lowell MA Folk Festival • Leaf Festival • Latino Arts Festival • T.B. Sheldon Memorial Theatre • A Centre for the Arts • The Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis • Lakewood Cultural Center • Montana Folk Festival • Wheatland Festival • Chicago World Music Festival • Arts Midwest (Juried Showcase) • Landfall Festival • Lotus Festival • Frankie's Jazz Club • Mary Winspear Centre • The Richmond Folk Festival • The ACT • Fish Creek Community • Festival des Guitares du Monde • Music on Main • Harrison Festival • The Toronto Botanical Gardens • Pan American Games • Java Jazz Jakarta • SXSW

**Adonis Puentes** has deep roots in Cuban culture. The respected, veteran musician has lived in Victoria, B.C. Canada for almost 20 years. As evidenced by his latest recording, *Dicen* (The Talk), Puentes continues to celebrate his Cuban heritage while expanding his musical and lyrical influences.

Adonis and his fraternal twin brother Alexis Puentes, another popular and critically acclaimed Cuban-Canadian musician now called Alex Cuba, were born and raised in the small town of Artemisia 65 kilometers southwest of Havana. His father, Valentin Puentes is a well-respected musician and teacher, and the twins began playing in a children's guitar ensemble when they were six. By age 14 Adonis was singing and writing original songs.

The Puentes brothers moved to Canada two decades ago and released their Juno-nominated CD debut, *Morumba Cubana* in 2001. Adonis began his solo career in 2004, his solo debut CD *Vida* garnering critical praise and Puentes receiving the Island Music Award as Artist of the Year.

One of the world's great soneros, Puentes' silky vocal readings were even more impressive on *Sabor A Café*, a Los Angeles studio recording, Hollywood actor and Latin Music superstar, Ruben Blades enthused that *Sabor A Café's* "variety of songs, excellent and original arrangements and the superlative quality of the musicians produce a record that I consider one of the best I have listened to in some time."

The 2014 Juno-nominated *Sabor A Café*, a collection of Puentes originals, is a modern Cuban masterpiece that features several tracks arranged by another Latin Music superstar, Oscar Hernandez.

Following the release of *Sabor A Café* Adonis returned to Cuba to record *Veinte Años*, an homage to veteran Cuban singer-songwriter Maria Teresa Vera. Joined by Pancho Amat and a collection of Cuban studio stars, the trova inspired tribute demonstrates Puentes' trademark sensuous ballad singing and Amat's traditional Cuban tres. The recording was nominated for a Cubadisco Award in 2014.

"The return to my Cuban homeland to record my tribute to Maria Teresa Vera with Havana's top musicians was a symbolic, personal triumph and a blessing," explains Adonis Puentes. "Working with producer Oscar Hernandez, to record my latest album, one of my musical heroes whose work is studied in school by every Cuban music student, is another blessing and a huge compliment to my growth as an artist."

Director and photographer Alec Watson produced three videos in support of *Sabor A Café* and *Veinte Años*, all filmed in Cuba, featuring Adonis' homeland, roots and culture

Earlier in his career, Adonis sang lead vocals with Jose Rizo's Los Angeles based, nine-piece Latin jazz band Mongorama on the group's 2011 Grammy nominated eponymously titled CD. Puentes has performed around the world sharing stages with Mongorama, with Irakere veteran Orlando 'Maraca' Vale, and with Latin Music stars Larry Harlow and Ruben Blades before 24,000 fans in New York City. He's played in Austin, Texas at South by Southwest Festival, The Java Jazz Festival in Indonesia, and at Los Angeles' Greek Theater and Lincoln Center in New York City. Puentes' performance before 5,000 fans in Redlands' California was aired on PBS Television in the U.S.

His original song, *Que Vacilon* was featured on the Fox Television police drama, *Rosewood's* soundtrack. His tune, *Tumbando Mangos* was recently chosen by Putamayo Records for their *Cuban Playground CD*. Puentes leads bands in Los Angeles and Canada, and during a cross Canada tour recently, Adonis re-connected with Oscar Hernandez at the Pan-American Games in Toronto.

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## New Album DICEN

Produced by Oscar Hernandez

ADONIS PUENTES YOUTUBE  
[www.youtube.com/adonispuentes](http://www.youtube.com/adonispuentes)

WEBSITE  
[www.adonispuentes.com](http://www.adonispuentes.com)

Hernandez called Puentes up to sing with his Grammy-winning *Spanish Harlem Orchestra*, and the singer's spontaneous performance before a huge crowd at Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square inspired the musicians' reunion for studio sessions recording the twelve original songs on *Dicen*. "It was definitely a case of opportunity meets preparation, as we recorded the base of the album with the band live in the studio in three days. Oscar and Jimmy Branly produced the sessions engineered by Jun Murakawa and mixed and mastered by Jimmy," Adonis explains. "Eleven of the songs are my originals plus *La Rumba Primero*, written by my brother Alex from the first Puentes Brothers CD. An old friend, Roberto Linares Brown, El Sena, did the arrangement."

"Each song is more than a song," Puentes continues. "Each describes a mood, a state of mind. I have rich Cuban cultural roots, but I've also been on a unique journey. Living in English on peaceful and beautiful West Coast of Canada allows me a lot of quiet concentration. My songwriting reflects this, and on *Dicen* I explore many facets of love and the life I have lived."

Opening with the brilliantly arranged, horn-driven *Una Aventura* (An Adventure), Puentes explores the joy of living without constraint, of life's adventures and love. The song is framed with a frothy, sexy dance rhythm.

Even sexier is the title track, *Dicen* (The Talk). *Dicen's* infectious groove propels the lyric's insight as Adonis sings in Spanish "If you come to me talking about him, and about them, for sure when you leave the room, you will talk about me." It's a seductive, sensuous dance track with a smart, powerful message.

*Porque La Luna* (Because The Moon) showcases Adonis' sweet, romantic ballad singing backed by one of Oscar Hernandez's most skillful and understated arrangements. Puentes is one of the world's great Soneros (Cuban ballad singer) and has grown into a poetic, wise lyricist.

*Amor Que Odio* (Love Over Hate) and *Me Pintas Luces* (Flashing Lights) are another pair of well-crafted, bright ballads that explore modern love's darker sides.

*Como Amigos* (Like Friends) is a break-up song with a daring, rhythmically sophisticated arrangement, while *A Veces Me Reclamas* (Sometimes You Claim Me) expresses the frustration with a love that comes with too many rules and expectations. *El Amor* (Love) is a transcendent dance track that sings the praises of love, Adonis concluding "I trust the divine light will never be turned off."

*Lucia* is another love song that Puentes wrote for his newborn daughter. Inspired by her smile, it acknowledges the miracle of life and the immensity of love. *Bendecido Por Dios* (Blessed By God) expresses the singer's gratitude for love and for being in a loving relationship.

*La Rumba Primero* (First Rumba), his brother's song is a celebration of Cuban culture and cultural identity propelled by a slinky dance track. The recording concludes with *Lluvia De Abril* (April Rain), another tender ballad reading by the great Sonero and one of Puentes' most refined poetic lyrics. "After a long, difficult winter, the April rain and colours of spring brought many warm memories back to me," Puentes explains with a sigh. "The warmth of the sun and flowers gave hope that brighter days were near. The song is a metaphor for hope. Hope will never die for me."

*Dicen* is a powerful, original collection of songs and a transcendent exploration of life and love. Writers and poets have always written about life's mysteries and love's power to hurt and heal. Adonis Puentes and his studio team have created a brilliant, singular vision of life and love. With an impeccable musical framework that sizzles and seduces, *Dicen* is a juicy dance-floor beauty.

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