

## CARLOS MENESES (ENG)

Born in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in 1979, Carlos Meneses is a professional musician with an extensive career as a bassist and double bassist since 2006. He has demonstrated creative skills in composition, performance, and recording for both his own projects and collaborations with others. He has worked with major national and international musicians and ensembles, including Gran Canaria Big Band, Big Band de Canarias, Kike Perdomo, Yul Ballesteros, Germán López, and Said Muti. He has performed with international figures such as *Kurt Elling*, *Anthony Strong*, *Paquito D'Rivera*, *Ken Norris*, and *New York Voices* on various stages, including Nájera Jazz, Canarias Jazz & Más, Valencia Festival de Jazz, JazzEÑE Málaga, FIM Cancún 2016, WOMAD LONDON, Canarias Jazz Showroom, WOMAD Canarias, Rincón del Jazz/Jazz de Otoño, and Corralejo Jazz Festival.

### Education:

- Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance - Jazz/Modern Music Double Bass from the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Canarias, under the guidance of D. Tanausú Santana Garrido (2023).
- Awarded a scholarship for *TEB (Tu Experiencia Broadway, NYC)* in January 2024.

### Discography:

- *[collabs]* (2024)
- *Carlos Meneses LIVE* (2024)
- *Like One* (2022) – *Nominated for the Canarian Music Awards for Best Jazz Album*
- *Live at CAAM* (2021)
- *Jazz a.m.* (2021)
- *Sharp Jazz* (2020)

Since 2017, he has released six albums as a leader, acting as a composer, producer, arranger, lyricist, and main performer.

## Artistic Profile:

Carlos Meneses is recognized for his originality on the double bass and his efforts in recording most of the piano parts in his albums. His unique composition style and expertise in transcription, arrangements, performance, and improvisation stand out. Across his six albums to date, he explores diverse musical influences, from classical and contemporary music to traditional and modern jazz, culminating in a style that incorporates Canarian folk elements into modern music.

He was nominated for the *2023 Canarian Music Awards for Best Jazz Album* for his work as a producer, composer, and performer on *Like One* (2022).

In his latest project, *[collabs]* (EmuBands, 2024), over 10 internationally renowned musicians contribute, including *Charles Goold* (drums, NYC), *Anthony Strong* (UK), *Melissa Aldana* (NYC), *Manuel Valera* (pianist, Cuba/NYC), *Maikel Vistel* and *Jorge Vistel* (tenor sax, trumpet, Cuba/Madrid & Paris), *Kike Perdomo* (tenor sax, Canary Islands), *Irene Reig* (alto sax, Barcelona), *Shangó Dely* (percussion, Colombia), *Juanma Barroso* (drums, Madrid), *Yasuyo Tsuchiya* (vocals, Japan), *Federico Lechner* (pianist, Argentina/Madrid), *Yul Ballesteros* (associate producer, guitarist, Canary Islands), *Ugo Arnoldo* (pianist, Canary Islands), *Takeo Takahashi*, *Akior García* (drums, Canary Islands), among others.

Currently, Carlos Meneses (double bass, compositions) presents the music from his latest album *[collabs]* with his main ensembles: "**Carlos Meneses' Hip Quartet**" (modern quartet) and "**Carlos Meneses Jazz Trio**", both featuring a selection of the musicians who currently accompany him: *Kike Perdomo* or *Irene Reig* (saxophone), *Yul Ballesteros* on guitar, and *Daniel González Batista* on drums.

## **Band Members' Biographies**

### **Yul Ballesteros (guitar):**

A musician, guitarist, composer, arranger, and producer, Yul studied in Madrid for three years before earning a scholarship at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, graduating in 2007. He has collaborated with musicians such as *Kevin Mahogany, Dave Samuels, Dick Oatts, Gary Versace, Dave Santoro, Ari Hoenig, and Joe Magnarelli*, among others.

He is regarded as one of the most talented guitarists in Spain, with a solid career. In 2013, he received the *Gran Canaria Music Award*. His album *Solo* was nominated for *Best Jazz Album* at the 2017 Canarian Music Awards.

In 2023 and 2024, he won the *Canarian Music Award for Best Jazz Album* for *ALMA* and *IslaZZ*.

### **Irene Reig (alto saxophone):**

A saxophonist and composer from the Raval district of Barcelona, Irene leads several groups, including her own trio and *The Bop Collective*, with which she has released three recordings. She is also part of other ensembles such as *Migra, Extraño Wey, Alto For Two, Lluç Casares Septet*, and the record label *The Changes*.

She has shared the stage with *Maria Schneider, Perico Sambeat, Dick Oatts, and John Swana*, the latter of whom collaborated on her first album *VIEWS*. She was a member of the *Sant Andreu Jazz Band*, recording three albums with them.

After earning a master's degree from the *Conservatorium van Amsterdam* and *Temple University* in Philadelphia—having previously completed her studies at *ESMUC*—she returned to Barcelona to continue her work as a performer and educator. She currently teaches improvisation and ensemble classes at the *Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya*.

### **Kike Perdomo (tenor/soprano saxophone):**

He has studied saxophone, flute, harmony, arrangement, composition, and improvisation from various sources, including the *Conservatorio Superior de Música de S/C de Tenerife* and the *Luis Vecchio School of Jazz and Modern Music*, as well as with private instructors such as *Greg Lyons, Dave Schnitter, Greg Badolato, Eric Marienthal, Bill Evans, Bennie Maupin, Chris Cheek, Will Vinson,* and *Dick Oatts*.

- Awarded a *Berklee College of Music* scholarship in 1989.
- Earned a degree in Jazz and Modern Music from *ESMUC Barcelona* in 2009.
- Served as a saxophone, Big Band, and music management professor at the *Conservatorio Superior de Música de Canarias* (2015–2020).

Since 1990, he has led his own band, releasing 12 albums featuring top-tier collaborators such as *Bill Evans, Chano Domínguez, Chuck Loeb, Eric Marienthal, Soren Moren, George Dulin, Vince Cherico, Mark Lomano, Greg August, Jeroen Truyen,* and *Joseph Lepore*.

### **Daniel González Batista (drums):**

A young drummer from Tenerife now based in Madrid, Daniel holds a degree in drums and is also a professor. He frequently collaborates with many Canarian artists, including *Kike Perdomo* and the *Big Band de Canarias*.

Currently, Carlos Meneses performs as a quartet with his **"Hip Quartet"** (modern quartet), so named for the versatility and fluidity of the participating musicians. *Kike Perdomo* and *Irene Reig* alternate as saxophonists, while the rhythm section remains stable with *Yul Ballesteros* on guitar and *Daniel González* on drums.

## Notable Performances:

- Teatro Rayuela, 5-2-25.
  - TEA JAZZ, 2-14-25.
  - PARANINFO DE LA ULPGC, 1-17-25.
  - JAZZ IN THE HALL, TEATRO DEL SAUZAL, 1-16-25.
  - Baires, 12-5-24.
  - JAZZ CAAM 2024, 11-8-24.
  - Sala faro, 10-24-24.
  - Café Teatro Rayuela, 9-27-24.
  - Buenos Aires Jazz Café, 7-4-24.
  - LPA INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY, 3-25-24.
  - Ciclo de Jazz Canario, 3-10-24.
  - RINCÓN DEL JAZZ 2023, SIT, 12-2-23.
  - Global Jazz Concerts, 8-23-23.
  - Recital de Fin de Estudios, CSMC, 7-7-23.
  - Jazz entre amigos, 5-14-23.
  - Muestra DE JAZZ CANARIAS JAZZ SHOWROOM, 10-7-22.
  - Festival CANARIAS JAZZ & MÁS (31ª Ed.), 7-7-22.
  - FMP, 4-22.
  - Ciclo "Músicas Paralelas" del CAAM, 7-21.
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## Social Media:

- 🌐 Website: [Carlos Meneses Jazz](#)
- 📷 Instagram: [@carlosmenesesmusician](#)
- 📺 YouTube: [Carlos Meneses Jazz](#)
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