



TITO PUENTE (1923-2000)

Timbales, vibraphone, trap drums, congas, piano, vocalist

[Watch a video.](#)

Ernest Anthony Puente, Jr., Tito Puente is internationally recognized for his enormous and significant contributions to Latin music as a bandleader, composer, arranger, percussionist, and mentor. Popularly known as the "El Rey del Timbal" and the "King of Mambo", he recorded more than 100 albums, published more than 400 compositions, and won six Grammy awards.

Although he played and recorded jazz and salsa, Puente is one of only a handful of musicians who deserve the title "legendary", primarily for his mastery of the mambo. Puente has been credited with introducing the timbal and the vibraphone to Afro-Cuban music, Puente also played the trap drums, the conga drums, the claves, the piano, and occasionally, the saxophone and the clarinet. While Puente was perhaps best known for his all-time best-selling 1958 mambo album "Dance Mania", his eclectic sound has continued to transcend cultural and generational boundaries. As a testament to his popularity with a younger audience, Puente has recorded with rocker Carlos Santana and has performed regularly at college concerts throughout the country. He has also appeared in several films, received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and performed on television's The David Letterman Show.

For more information go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tito_Puente

See you tomorrow to discover another "Born in April" jazz artist!