



# FELIX CABRERA BAND



"Cabrera owns a distinctive singing voice and his harmonica playing has a depth of character forged out of influences Little Walter and James Cotton"

- Frank Hadley, Downbeat



**Cabrera taught himself the blues harp by playing along to the radio and formed his first band by 1968. But he didn't abandon his Latin roots. "The first time I blew a harp over Latin music was over (Eddie) Palmieri's "Azucar," he recalls. "It's the same music. The same slaves that landed in Cuba landed here too. So when it comes down to blowing a blues, I can do it over a chan-chan just as easily.**

**by Tom Pryor in Global Rhythm magazine**

## FELIX CABRERA

was born in La Habana, Cuba. He came to the U.S. at a very young age and quickly got hooked on rock, blues, R&B and soul music. He played with various bands and in 1974, formed the A Train Blues Band with Arthur Neilson. The band backed up and recorded with Victoria Spivey and North Carolina bluesman Tarheel Slim. Felix also discovered the music of Paul Butterfield and Little Walter.

In the next few years, Felix experimented with the diatonic harmonica in Cuban music and co-led The Internationals, opening shows for Big Joe Turner and James Cotton. In 1983, he formed Felix and the Havanas, recording "NEXT!!" and opening for James Brown at the Lone Star Café in NYC. The band also opened many times for Buddy Guy & Junior Wells, Bobby Blue Bland, Jr. Walker, Wilson Pickett, Dr. John, Lonnie Mack, Marcia Ball

and many others. Felix was the inaugural act at NYC's Manny's Car Wash blues club and he performed on the NPR program, Blues Stage, hosted by Ruth Brown.

In the early 90's, Felix's first album, NEXT!, was released in Europe. In the late 90's, Felix joined Jimmy Vivino and the Black Italians. Vivino and bandmates backed Felix on his second CD, "Cubops Cublues". That was followed up by "Pressure Cooker", "For Green" and "Felix Cabrera and Jimmy Vivino - Live At The Turning Point". All were highly rated in Downbeat Magazine.

Over the last 15 years, Felix has performed numerous times with Vivino, backed up Marty Balin and has fronted The Ed Palermo Big Band in a program of Paul Butterfield and Mike Bloomfield music. Felix most recently appeared with Palermo in August of 2015 at the Big Apple Blues & Barbecue Festival in NYC for a crowd of over 6000. In 2008, The Black Italians reunited and in

2012 they recorded "Jimmy Vivino and the Black Italians - 13 Live" at Levon Helm's Ramble in Woodstock, NY featuring Felix on several tracks. They also performed on the Conan TV show and headlined the 2014 King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, Arkansas.

Felix also fronts the Felix Cabrera Band which has performed at such venues as B.B. Kings, The Towne Crier Café and The Turning Point. The band features Felix along with Arthur Neilson (guitars), Tim Regusis (keyboards), Phil Butler (bass), Bill Schroeder (drums) and with occasional guitarists Jimmy Bennett and Matt Mirabile.

With the induction of the Paul Butterfield Blues Band into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, there is a new appreciation by audiences to Felix's approach to blues and rock harp.



### 13 LIVE (2013)

#### Jimmy Vivino & the Black Italians

Jimmy Vivino, Mike Merritt, Felix Cabrera, Catherine Russell, Danny Louis, James Wormworth, Fred Walcott, Mike Jacobson  
Recorded live at Levon Helm Studios on December 1, 2012  
Blind Pig Records



### LIVE AT THE TURNING POINT (2009)

#### The Felix Cabrera Band with Jimmy Vivino

Felix Cabrera, Jimmy Vivino, Eddy Bishai, Phil Butler, Bill Schroeder  
Suitcase Sound Recordings



### NOVEMBERIN' (2008)

#### Shuggie Otis, Jimmy Vivino, Andy Falco, Don Celenza and Felix Cabrera

Laughing Elephant Records

### FOR GREEN (2004)

#### Felix Cabrera

Produced by Felix Cabrera and Arthur Neilson  
Si Records



### PRESSURE COOKER (2001)

#### Felix Cabrera

Arthur Neilson (Guitar), Danny Louis (Keyboards), Phil Butler (Bass), Bill Schroeder (Drums), Geovanni Arencibia (Percussion), Felix Cabrera (Harmonica and Vocals, Arranger, Producer) with guests Jimmy Vivino, Michael Merritt, James Wormworth, Fred Walcott, Mike Jacobsen, Dave Rimelis, Jerry Vivino, Brian Hess, Doña Oxford, Dave Rimelis, Howard Johnson and Mark Pinder on selected tracks  
Fountain Bleu Records

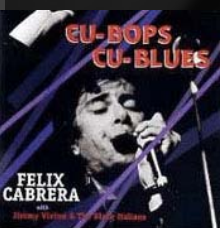


### CU-BOP CU-BLUES (1998)

#### Felix Cabrera with Jimmy Vivino & the Black Italians

Felix Cabrera, Jimmy Vivino, Michael Merritt, James Wormworth, Fred Walcott, Mike Jaobsen, Danny Louis w/ guests Giovanni Arenciba, Dave Rimelis, Jerry Vivino, Arthur Neilson, Brian Hess, Doña Oxford and Bill Schroeder on selected tracks

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"Felix Cabrera can shout the blues and blow a mean harp...the band likes to stretch out and jam, and as they took turns riding the groove, the warm-up caught fire. The intensity on the bandstand continued to build until Cabrera took it down with a small hand gesture. Even with little or no rehearsal, he seemed to be in complete control. Shouting, gesturing wildly, playing bongos, congas and unusual percussion instruments, he put his heart and soul into every note." **Kay Cordtz, Blues Revue Magazine**

"...and the genius Felix Cabrera on harmonica. Felix has a great feel for the harmonica, and really classes up the joint wherever he plays..."  
**Rex Bartholomew,**  
[rexbass.blogspot.com](http://rexbass.blogspot.com)

"It's a powerhouse set of tunes that satisfies the should in a frenzy of sound...A great sounding stack of music."

**Dick Bissbaum, Big City Blues**

"A raw street side vibe pervades this rockin, rootsy, ragtag-but-real amalgam of blues, bop, rock and latin sounds. Cabrera, a Cuban-born singer and blue-harp blower is home with Butterfield and Blakey..."

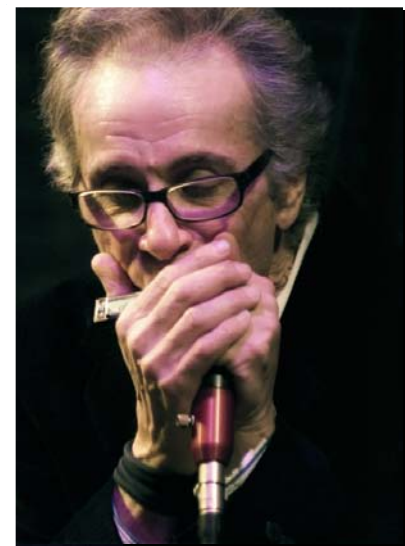
**Gene Kalmbach, College Music Journal**

"Most every word Cabrera sings sounds part of an urgent, soul-searching confessional and, aside from Jerry Portnoy and Annie Raines, no one in the Northeast ushers a Chicago-style harmonica into lyricism with such ease."

**Frank John Hadley, Downbeat Magazine.**

"In this music, lyricism, excitement, jazz freedom and a feeling of intimate spaciousness are never far apart."

**Downbeat Magazine**



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[www.felixcabrera.com](http://www.felixcabrera.com)

THE FELIX CABRERA BAND features:

Felix Cabrera (blues, harp + vocals)

Arthur Nelson (guitars)

Tim Regusis (keyboards)

Phil Butler (bass)

and Bill Schroeder (drums)

Felix is also available for guest  
appearances with other bands.

BOOKING  
INFO

