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**JOHN BENITEZ TRIO**  
**Descarga in New York**

2001 Khaeon Records

This is a stunning debut by bass player John Benítez and his trio. The band explores the full spectrum of Pan-Latino rhythms with an incomparable sense of style and direction.

The title "Descarga in New York" refers to a Latin instrumental jam improvised over a bass-riff; an ideal vehicle for Benítez to display his "chops" on the acoustic and electric bass.

Benítez and his multi-cultural trio consist of: Cuban drummer, Dafnis Prieto - who is fast becoming one of New York's hottest drummers- and Venezuelan pianist Luis Perdomo (who contributes 5 compositions to this recording). Saxophonist Ravi Coltrane (son of the legendary John Coltrane) and percussionist Richie Flores are the featured guests.

A native of Puerto Rico, Benítez attended San Juan's performing arts high school, "Escuela Libre de Musica," (saxophonist David Sánchez was a classmate) the University of Puerto Rico and the Conservatory of Music. He has played with the legendary Fania All-Stars, Roberto Roena and his Apollo Sound and Batacumbete, a hot, experimental Afro-Rican band that featured many of Puerto Rico's top musicians.

Since he moved to New York in 1993, Benítez has been featured with Willie Colon, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, Wynton Marsalis, Roberto Carcassés, Mongo Santamaría, Conrad Herwig, Arturo O' Farrill, Ray Vega, the Mingus Big Band, Roy Hargrove and David Sánchez.

From the outset the trio displays a focused musical vision beyond their years. The recording opens with "Nuevo Montuno," a sizzling tune that SETS THE TONE FOR THIS PROJECT. Benítez (who arranged all the music) and crew are not shy about interspersing their material with political commentary as well. For example, "Descarga Vieques" refers to the U.S. bombing off the coast of Puerto Rico and "Procession" speaks about the arrival of African slaves in New York. On the lighter side there is "B. Smooth" and the (Charles) Mingus inspired "Positano."

Benítez is an adventurous, gifted leader who demonstrates that bigger is not always better. He has the distinction of being the first artist to debut a recording on the KHAEON label. Kudos to KHAEON records for having the farsightedness to allow Benítez and his trio to do it their way.

Review by Thomas Peña

#### SONG TRACKS

1. Nuevo Montuno [ [listen](#) ]
2. Sun & Shadow [ [listen](#) ]
3. Long Time Waiting
4. Breakdown [ [listen](#) ]
5. J Ben Jazz [ [listen](#) ]
6. Cuan Grande Es El
7. B. Smooth
8. Convergence
9. Descarga Vieques [ [listen](#) ]
10. Positano
11. Procession
12. In The Dark [ [listen](#) ]



#### MUSICIANS

John Benítez - acoustic and electric bass  
Luis Perdomo - piano and Fender Rhodes piano  
Dafnis Prieto - drums and percussion  
Richie Flores - congas and Latin percussion  
Ravi Coltrane - soprano and tenor saxophone

Related links: [www.khaeonworldmusic.com](http://www.khaeonworldmusic.com)