

Bristol Reggae Orchestra presents:

Reggae Meets Cuba Workshop

Please book: Maximum 40 places. Open to adults & young people aged 15+

Date: Sunday 31st May **Time:** 10.00am – to 1.00 pm **FREE**

Venue: Trinity Centre, (The Fyfe Hall) Trinity Road, Easton BS2 0NW

Workshop Facilitators: Mark Spence; Michel Padron



Mark Spence

was born in Bristol and grew up in St Pauls. He grew up listening to the sounds on the streets, at that time a mixture of soul, funk and reggae music, and in the

Church surrounded by Gospel music. In 1982, Mark joined Arts Opportunities Theatre Company, as part of a cast of 60 young singers, dancers, actors, musicians and sound engineers in *Freedom City*. He remained with the production for two years touring the UK and abroad, and then continued with the Reggae band, Restriction, which also toured the UK and Europe.

In 2009, Mark created AMJ Collective with Andrew Clarke and John Hollis. Taking the best of their own individual talents and abilities they work with musicians and vocal artists from all backgrounds who share their passion for music.



Michel Padrón

was born into an artistic family in Havana (Cuba). After many years as the director of the Latin band, *Asere*, he now works on his own project using his Caribbean roots.

Michel has been well recognised throughout his career for his work as a trumpeter in the classical music scene, as well as for collaborating with various artists around the world playing a wide range of music genres. He has performed at Jazz and World Music festivals in Europe, America, Asia and Africa, as well as recording with several artists from all the Continents on independent and recognized labels such as Putumayo, BMG, and Warner. His work as a composer has featured in films, TV, and theatres in Cuba, Spain, United Kingdom and Germany amongst others. Michel came to the UK in 1998 to play, teach & arrange music.

Learning outcomes: This workshop offers the chance to join with members of Bristol Reggae Orchestra to learn about AMJ's process of producing an album with musicians on different continents. Come and find out what Cuban reggae is, and learn to play a Cuban reggae song in a large, friendly group.

All participants will gain understanding of performing this fusion sound, while considering dynamics, interpretation and improvisation.

The workshop is open to players and singers at all levels. Reading music is an asset but if you don't read, let us know and we will work around you. We also welcome observers who would like to find out more about the orchestra or learn about reggae music and performance in a large multi-instrumental group.



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