

As a Puertorrican Jazz Percussionist and Composer, I made history when CMA awarded the "New Jazz Works" grant 2019 to a Puertorrican artist/group living on the island. There is a chance I'm also the second Puertorrican in the history of the grant.

It was an unforgettable moment when I received the news. At that moment, I committed to creating a masterpiece project that represented my work, my group, and my country, Puerto Rico.

Recently moved to Puerto Rico, in 2019 I was starting from zero, having lost my NYC apartment due to a fire.

Everything seemed to look just fine until COVID - 19 changed our lives in an instant. All our work was gone, venues closed, studios closed, and we had no idea how long this chaos was going to last.

DEATH became the word of the day—humans, dreams, work, schedules, faith, plans, bank accounts, and so much more were disappearing. In the middle of so much Death, I decided to look for life.

Losing a home - and then all work- gives you no time to complain or overthink. It's about action.

These are the so-called "Fight or Fly" situations. When faced with life-threatening conditions, we can access our "Superpowers," which is what this album BUSCANDO LA VIDA is all about.

Every move, idea, melody, rhythm, concept on this project is fueled by the "Fight or Fly" energy that we carry—the LIFE inside and around us.

The grant represented a chance to earn money to deal with COVID-19, to create work that speaks about our culture, and the opportunity to use the grant as a point of departure to open the doors for possible outcomes in the future.

The only way we could complete this project was by constantly adapting to what was possible during Pandemic times, by never for a minute lose faith or focus, and by working as a family.

The result is work that transcends the musical notes.

Another historic accomplishment was to have The Metropole Orkest record with us on the album.

This collaboration takes the music to a higher level; it also takes our culture and works as a group to new places in history.

Today It's May 29, 2021, and we don't know when live performances will be back to normal.

December 2020 - when we went into the studio - was much more unreliable/scary, and the world was on a full pause, but we had to make things work and extraordinarily do them.

This album is a testament to courage and excellence during the worst moments.

After two long years of waiting and dealing with the NYC landlord, I finally had to give up on my NYC apartment, so in many ways, this project represents one of my primary efforts to establish myself as an artist living in Puerto Rico.  
Here goes my Jazz Album!

-Henry Cole May 29, 2021