

# Graduate Student Profile

**Mario Allende, York University**

Born in Chile and raised in Canada, Mario Allende was best known as the driving force behind the Alberta based Latin-Jazz group, Bomba! Today, however, he mixes the drum kit, timbales, congas, and myriad percussion instruments as a freelance musician in Toronto's vibrant musical scene.

A studied, yet emotional player, Mario is restlessly creative and performs with the spirit this music demands. Mario studied with the legendary Los Muñequitos de Matanzas, Jose Luis "Changuito" Quintana, Irakere's Enrique Plá, Oscar Valdés, and the late Miguel "Angá" Díaz. Currently, he is completing a Master's Degree in Ethnomusicology at York University.

Mario has performed across the country and abroad including a 2010 performances in Cartagena, Colombia, a 2009 Canadian Jazz Festival tour, 2008 performances in the UK and Italy, the Havana International Jazz Festival (Cuba, 2004), and the Seoul Drum Festival (S. Korea, 2005, 2006). He has performed alongside Senator Tommy Banks (Canada), P.J. Perry (Canada), Oscar Valdés and Diakara (Cuba), Inti-Illimani (Chile), Changuito (Cuba), and Ricardo Lemvo (U.S.A.), to name a few.

As an educator, Mario has taught music and Latin culture workshops at the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton, Alberta; Mount Royal College and the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta; the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta; and York University and the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. He has also led a Latin music and Spanish residency for the past five years at Sturgeon Composite High School (Namao, AB). This residency took Mario, along with 84 students, teachers and parents on a study trip to Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara, Cuba.

Mario endorses Moperc Percussion.