



Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy July 1st - 8th, 2025



Give your young musician a “life-changing” experience!





Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy OVERVIEW

The Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy (CCSJA) is an exciting new music education program that has been designed for Canadian high school music students. Participants will travel to Varadero, Cuba and discover the important ties between Afro-Cuban music, culture and history and jazz!

Over the course of the week, students will workshop classic Cuban repertoire, discover the rhythms of the Mambo, Rumba and Son Cubano under the direction of one of Cuba's foremost music educators Daya Aceituno Rodriguez. Students will attend masterclasses on Afro-Cuban drumming & dance, salsa dancing, work in rehearsal with Cuban musicians and attend performances by local musicians.

Each day students will participate in nearly daily excursions to historic and culturally relevant sites on the island while also having plenty of time to enjoy the beach, pool and resort.

The Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy will be hosted at the Hotel [ROC Arenas Doradas](#) in Varadero, Cuba.



Hotel Information



Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



JULES ESTRIN - [more info](#)

Jules has been teaching band for the Toronto District School Board for the past 25 years and maintains a busy schedule giving master classes, lectures and clinics on band and jazz band pedagogy.

Recently he has presented at the Ontario Music Educators Conference, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Laurier University, Peel District School Board, Halton District School Board and has adjudicated at music festivals across Canada.

Jules is currently serving as Musical Director for the [Toronto Jazz Academy Orchestra](#) and [High Rendition Jazz](#) in Oakville, Ontario. In 2019 he was appointed Director of Jazz at [Interprovincial Music Camp](#) in Parry Sound, Ontario.

His groups have performed with legendary jazz artists Randy Brecker, Bucky Pizzarelli, Lew Tabackin, Tom Scott, Wycliffe Gordon and Joey DeFrancesco. Jules is a graduate of McGill University and the University of Toronto.



DAYA ACEITUNO RODRÍGUEZ - [more info](#)

Daya a native of Havana, Cuba, has been dedicated to music since an early age. As a euphonium player, she graduated from Havana's prestigious Amadeo Roldán Conservatory in 2009 specializing in performance and graduated from Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) Cuba's national university of arts in 2015.

Daya performs on euphonium with the Provincial Band of Havana and has spent nine years as Director of Banda Boyeros, Cuba's only band that dances as it performs. Her busy schedule also includes

teaching band at the Alejandro García Caturla Conservatory and the National School of Arts, both in Havana.

In 2019 and 2022 under Daya's direction, Banda Boyeros won top prize at Cuba's National Music awards in the concert band category. Daya is highly respected in the Cuban music scene and the Boyeros band has been seen numerous times on Cuban TV. Daya's high energy approach to music is infectious!



Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy ITINERARY

DAY 1: Canada to Cuba. On arrival in Cuba, we will be met by our hosts at the airport and transferred to our hotel for check-in. Dinner at the hotel. Welcome briefing with your hosts to review plans for the week.

DAY 2: Breakfast. Morning classes/workshops at the hotel for the different sections/instruments. Lunch at the hotel. This afternoon we will take an orientation tour of Varadero. We will visit downtown Varadero, the local artisans market, and other tourist areas. Later in the afternoon we will receive informal Salsa dance classes at the hotel. Dinner at the hotel. Evening rehearsal for all sections together.

DAY 3: Breakfast. Morning classes/workshops at the hotel for the different sections/instruments. Lunch at the hotel. The afternoon will be free to enjoy the sun, white sand beach and swim in the Caribbean Sea. In the late afternoon we will attend a presentation by an Afro-Cuban musical/dance group. Members of the group will endeavour to share Afro-Cuban song and dance with the students. Dinner at the hotel. Evening rehearsal for all sections together.

DAY 4: Breakfast. Morning classes/workshops at the hotel for the different sections/instruments. Lunch at the hotel. This afternoon we will visit the Bellamar Caves. This journey into the underworld takes the visitor through 300 meters of the cave system. These caves were discovered in 1861 and soon became one of Cuba's main tourist attractions because of the beauty of its chambers and galleries, fountains, stalactites and stalagmites, crystallized domes and other formations. Dinner at the hotel. Evening rehearsal for all sections together.

DAY 5: Day trip to Havana. Breakfast. This morning we will visit Old Town Havana, Spain's gateway to the conquest of Latin America. Havana, founded in 1519, became the capital of Cuba in 1553 and in 1982 UNESCO declared Old Havana a World Heritage Site, where 144 buildings from the 16th and 17th centuries are preserved. Our guide will lead a walking tour of the Old City.

We then travel by air-conditioned coach to the harbour entrance to visit the Parque Historico del Morro (entrance fee to park included, optional museum fee not included) and see fortifications built in the 17th century to guard the city from attack by pirates. Lunch (\$15 USD not included) at a local restaurant.

This afternoon we will visit a local community centre that provides assistance to low-income families and provides free art and music classes to kids. You will attend a performance by the kids and then learn about this outreach program and their mission from the volunteers that run it. If you wish, your group can present a donation to the community centre kids (goods, not money). Return to Varadero. Dinner at the hotel. Attend evening show at the hotel.



Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy ITINERARY cont'd

DAY 6: Breakfast. Morning classes/workshops at the hotel for the different sections/instruments. Lunch at the hotel. This afternoon we will visit the Varadero Aquarium and enjoy a dolphin show. Later in the afternoon we will receive informal Salsa dance classes at the hotel. Dinner at the hotel. Evening rehearsal for all sections together.

DAY 7: Breakfast. Morning classes/workshops at the hotel for the different sections/instruments. Lunch at the hotel. The afternoon will be free to enjoy the beach and pool. Dinner at the hotel. This evening students will perform for Cuban and international guests at the hotel to showcase what they have learned during the week.

DAY 8: Cuba to Canada. Breakfast. Check out. Time permitting other points of interest may be visited enroute to the airport before check-in for the return flight.

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PRICING

\$2,395.00 for the week of July 1 to 8, 2025

Program Includes: Round trip airfare from Toronto to Cuba, 7 nights hotel accommodation based on double occupancy in air-conditioned rooms with private bath, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily (all-inclusive hotel), coordination and entrance/participation fees for classes/workshops/performances/tours, translators/guides, local facilitators, ground transportation via modern air-conditioned bus as per itinerary, Cuban visa, and all Cuban and Canadian taxes. Not Included: 1 lunch outside of the hotel, optional activities, personal expenses and tips.

Please Note: Hotels, restaurant and recreational facilities are quite expensive by local standards. You may choose to invite Cuban students and teachers to participate in social activities with your group. This is always warmly received, however, you as host, are expected to assume the cost of the invitation as it is beyond the means of most Cubans. We recommend you check with your guide for suggestions before extending any invitations to activities not included in the itinerary.

Depending on local conditions the order of activities may not be as indicated, we reserve the right to adjust the itinerary if required for the safe and proper management of the tour. Due to COVID-19, portions of your tour to be provided by third-party suppliers may be different than advertised, including being reduced or unavailable. By booking with us, you understand and accept the foregoing and you agree that we cannot be held liable for changes beyond our control.



Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy EXCURSIONS

Students will participate in nearly daily excursions to historic and culturally relevant sites on the island while also having plenty of time to enjoy the beach, pool and resort.

A full day will be dedicated to visiting Havana which is the capital of the island of Cuba.





Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy WORKSHOPS

Workshops in Afro-Cuban Drumming and Dance will be taught by some of the best music educators on the island.



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to showcase their talents at the end of the week





Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy TESTIMONIALS



[Click here!](#)



[Click here!](#)

[Registration Link](#)

CONTACT

331 Trowers Road, Suite 3, 2nd Floor
Woodbridge, ON L4L 6A2

Tel: 905-850-0999

Email: admin@canadacuba.com

Website: www.canadacuba.com

Application Form: <https://forms.gle/ZZdhcQMRixwoHvLHA>

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Deposit due: December 20, 2024

Final payment due: April 15, 2025

Interac e-Transfer: khull@canadacuba.com





Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy TERMS & CONDITIONS

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We offer Youth/Student Deluxe cancellation/medical/baggage insurance and other travel insurance products available for purchase through our website at www.canadacuba.com We recommend buying travel insurance as soon as the booking is confirmed.

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

If you must cancel, please notify us in writing. The cancellation will be effective from the date it is received in our office. The following scale of cancellation charges will apply to compensate the organizers for prepayments made on advance booking of travel & related services, and for administrative costs involved. It is a result of the expenses and losses suffered due to cancellations, not a penalty.

<u>Time prior to Departure</u>	<u>Cancellation Charge</u>
From date deposit is received up to 60 days before departure	Deposit lost
59 days to and including 31 days before departure	50% of total price
30 days to and including day of departure	100% of total price

The above cancellation penalties apply only for those not covered by travel insurance, otherwise you will get a full refund from the insurance company if the cancellation is due to a covered risk.

NAME CHANGES

Name changes are permitted free of charge up to 60 days before departure. Within 60 – 31 days before departure, a name change fee of \$50 will be charged. Within 30 to 15 days before departure, the name change fee will be \$150. From 14 days up to the day of departure name changes are not permitted.



Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy TERMS & CONDITIONS cont'd

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A valid passport and a Cuban Tourist Card are required for entry into Cuba. Passports must be valid for 6 months after your expected date of return. Any passenger without a valid passport will not be allowed to board. The Cuban tourist card will be handed out to all passengers on board the plane. Canadian Citizens require a valid passport. Landed Immigrants require a valid passport and must also present a valid Permanent Resident Card. International Students require a valid passport and must travel with a multiple-entry student visa issued by Canada to get back into Canada. American Citizens require a valid passport and must contact the U.S. Treasury Department to make sure they qualify to travel under a General License and follow their guidelines. Please note that entry to another country may be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete.

CONSENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

Every effort will be made to have your group participate in performances, tours, and all activities as outlined in the itinerary; and opportunities for cultural exchange will be arranged at every opportunity. However, weather conditions and local ministry approval are factors in determining the possible dates and locations of all activities. The itinerary you receive reflects what we will provide, but not necessarily in that order. We reserve the right to adjust the itinerary if required for the safe and proper management of the tour. Please note that living standards and practices at the destination and standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in Canada. I agree that my child will abide by the Tour Operator's and foreign country's laws and regulations and the reasonable directions of my child's group leaders, Tour Operator, or tour directors during this tour. Failure to do so may result in Tour Operator excluding my child from the balance of the tour. I understand that if my child disobeys such laws, rules, or directions, then I waive the right to refund of any part of the program fee. The Tour Operator, tour director, or the teacher in charge may send my child home at my expense. I agree, for myself and on behalf of my child, to release the Tour Operator, its officers and employees, and my school and group leaders from, and agree not to sue these parties for, any claims which I or my child may have arising from, or in connection with, any bodily injury or property damage which my child may suffer from any cause whatsoever, other than those caused by the actual negligence of these parties. I also agree not to sue these parties for any bodily injury or property damage which my child may suffer resulting from Acts of God, War, Strikes or Government Restrictions, Terrorist Activities, or the Acts or Omissions of any other organization or individual, over whom these parties have no direct control, including without limitation, Airlines, Hotels, Bussing and Shipping companies.



Canada Cuba Summer Jazz Academy TERMS & CONDITIONS cont'd

Due to COVID-19, portions of your tour to be provided by third-party suppliers may be different than advertised, including being reduced or unavailable. By booking with us, you understand and accept the foregoing and you agree that we cannot be held liable for changes beyond our control.

Please note that by paying the Cuba tour deposit you are accepting our terms and conditions.