

Headline : SWARNABHOOMI ACADEMY OF MUSIC (SAM) Piano faculty MANUEL

VALERA nominated for a Grammy Award

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Chennai, Dec 12: MANUEL VALERA, the Piano faculty at SAM's spring 2013 program has just been nominated for a **Grammy Award** for his album '**New Cuban Express**' in the prestigious 'Best Latin Jazz' category.

Swarnabhoomi Academy of Music (**SAM**) - the professional music college under the aegis of MARG Ltd, under the able leadership of its President Prasanna, provides an innovative & challenging academic program in music that fosters a collaborative exchange of ideas and thoughts in a culturally rich environment exemplifying the notion of a global community. Since starting its Diploma Program in July 2010, SAM has hired 56 world class musicians from 24 countries to teach here. These include several Grammy nominated artists, MacArthur Fellows and some of the most distinguished performing artists in the world. 225 students have studied at the Diploma program and 125 others in the short term programs at SAM so far. SAM Diploma and short program alumni are some of the leading musicians in the country across all genres.

Manuel Valera - Cuban pianist, bandleader, composer & arranger, who is in the forefront of contemporary modern jazz and represents the next generation of great performers and composers has been roped in as faculty for Spring 2013 program at Swarnabhoomi Academy of Music. The announcement of his nomination to the prestigious Grammy Award for his album '**New Cuban Express**' in the 'Best Latin Jazz' category has brought joy to the SAM fraternity, as **the celebrated musician would be teaching here from Jan 22 to March 8 and will take a brief trip to Los Angeles to attend the Grammy Awards presentation which is scheduled for Feb 10, 2013.**

New Cuban Express is a killer vehicle that rides the rails of excitement from start to finish. With *New Cuban Express*, Valera has found joy in balancing Cuban traditions, fusion fashions, funky underpinnings and contemporary ideals. The track Listing includes, *New Cuban Express*; *Intro To Upwards*; *Upwards*; *Choices*; *Me Faltabas Tu*; *Regards*; *Poly*; *Intro To Gismonteando*; *Gismonteando*; *Interlude*; *Cinco Contra Tres*; *Danzon*; *Makuta*.

Commenting on this development **GRK Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director, MARG Group** said, "We are delighted have an artist of Manuel Valera's stature at MARG Swarnabhoomi to teach music at SAM. The music curriculum at SAM has been meticulously planned by Prasanna and well executed by international experts in the field of music. I wish Valera all the best for the Grammy award and look forward to seeing him at SAM".