

LAMusArt  
**LIVE!**

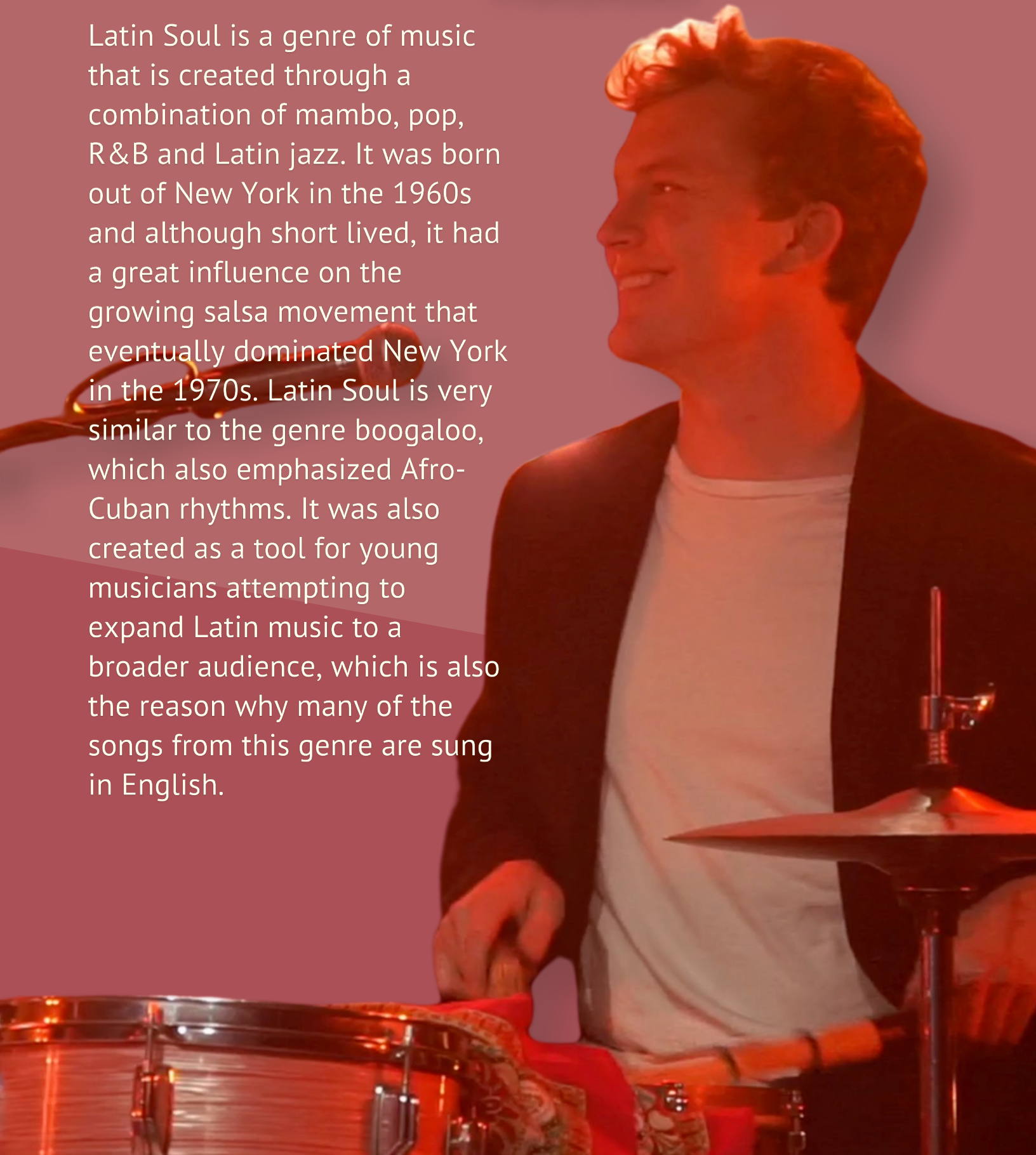
# Korduroy: Latin-Soul Fusion

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 STUDY GUIDE



# Latin-Soul *Fusion*

Latin Soul is a genre of music that is created through a combination of mambo, pop, R&B and Latin jazz. It was born out of New York in the 1960s and although short lived, it had a great influence on the growing salsa movement that eventually dominated New York in the 1970s. Latin Soul is very similar to the genre boogaloo, which also emphasized Afro-Cuban rhythms. It was also created as a tool for young musicians attempting to expand Latin music to a broader audience, which is also the reason why many of the songs from this genre are sung in English.



# Program

## **KEEP IT MOVIN'**

by Isaac López

## **COMIN' HOME**

by Isaac López

## **MAKE ME FEEL**

by Isaac López

## **(A PROSCRATINATOR'S) LOVE SONG**

by Isaac López

## **THE HEAT**

by Isaac López

## **MONSTER**

by Isaac López

About

# KORDUROY

Korduroy is a Progressive-Soul act that refuses to fit into a box. With up to 12 rotating members including brass, backing vocalists, and an extensive rhythm/percussion section, it's aim is to propel their audience to their feet and keep them moving. At the core of the ensemble is Dr. Isaac López who composes the music, lyrics, and arrangements. López's intention to create a genre-defying ensemble and pay tribute to his eclectic tastes, quickly led to the name Korduroy – which is a nod to the "grooves" both inherent in the fabric and ever-present in the ensemble's music.





# Interview with Isaac Lopez

## **How would you explain your style of music to someone who has never heard of Korduroy?**

I would call Korduroy "Groove Music". I came up with the name because of the groove you find in the corduroy fabric and I wanted to make an ensemble where we played a variance of style with the focus on playing different grooves as opposed to a singular genre.

## **Who have been the most influential musicians for your own development?**

I grew up with probably an overly healthy dose of James Brown, the Beatles, and Santana, but I always have music on and I'm always trying to hear more music.

## **What is most inspirational to you when writing music?**

Usually I'll start with a beat or groove that I like, and build the song out from there. Although probably the "best" songs I've written were prompted by an inspiring lyric or hook, from which we can build the rest of the piece.

## **Who would you most like to collaborate with?**

I already get to collaborate with some of the best musicians in LA (who happen to be some of my close friends) so I'm really fortunate!

## **What does your creative process look like?**

The process is different every time, but usually begins with hearing a song or groove and wanting to expound upon that and put my own spin on it, then next comes creating a melody and chord progression that resonates with me and lastly often comes lyrics (unless I have a specific lyric in mind for a section). Then I'll bring it to the band, and all of these great musicians put their collective spin on it and it becomes even better!

## **What is your favorite song to perform?**

"Monster" might be my favorite song to perform because people seem to really resonate with it.

## **What is the best advice you've been given?**

Be flexible and patient but never give up.

## **What's next for you?**

I think coming up next would be to write a few more songs and record a full length album!


**\* \* \***

Isaac Lopez is a crossover classical/jazz saxophonist and teaching artist for programs throughout Los Angeles including LAMusArt where he is the Jazz Ensemble lead teaching artist and private music instructor. He recently earned his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of California for Saxophone Performance. Lopez is the songwriter and founding member of Korduroy.



# Instruments Featured


## Ukulele



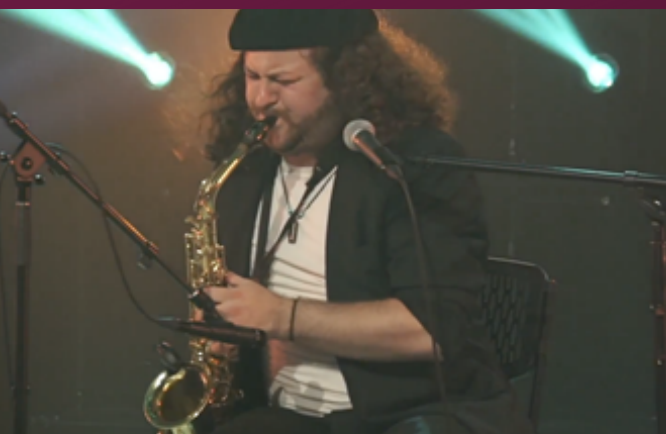
The ukulele is a string instrument regarded as a member of the lute family. It typically has four strings, however, there are some that have 6 or 8 strings, but are known as taropatches. They are generally made from wood that ranges from cheap plywood to expensive solid hardwoods. The instrument comes in four sizes, each of which give it a different tone based on the size and construction. These four sizes are soprano, concert, tenor and baritone. Typically, the shape of a ukulele is similar to that of a guitar, however there are also ukuleles in square and oval shapes.




## Saxophone



The saxophone is a wind instrument that requires a single reed. Like the ukulele, there are various saxophones used to achieve a certain tone. They range from soprano to bass. Saxophones are made from a conical metal tube that has 24 openings controlled by padded keys and mouthpiece similar to that of a clarinet. It has two octave key vents that give musicians that ability to blow to a higher register. The saxophone is known for its great flexibility, ability to blend well with woodwind and brass instruments and prominence in jazz music.




## Bass



The guitar is a part of the string family as well and typically has four strings, however five and six string basses do exist. Bass guitar came about in the mid-twentieth century and gave double bass players a new instrument to experiment. This development expanded the possibilities of pop, jazz, rock, country, hip hop, R&B, and even classical music. Bass guitars are built similarly to electric guitars, but they produce lower frequencies. Sound is heard when the metal strings are plucked and vibrate over one or more magnetic pickups. These pickups transmit a signal into an amplifier, which allows the bass to be heard.



## Drums



Drums, or also known as “drum kit” or “drum set,” is a group of percussion instruments arranged in a way that they can all be played by one person. Drum sets can easily be rearranged and are customizable to fit the needs of each individual who plays them as well as suit the genre or sound they are being used for. A typical drum set is made from a floor tom, snare drum, bass drum, crash cymbal, ride cymbal, hi-hat cymbal, and a large and small tom-tom. While drum sets are highly customizable, they are usually arranged from left-to-right in order from the drum with the highest tone to the lowest. The bigger the drum, the lower the tone so the drums get increasingly bigger from left to right. Cymbal tone can vary based on size, taper and thickness. Different from drums, however, just because two cymbals are the same size does not mean they will have the same tone. Cymbals are usually selected based on their functionality and taste.



# Word Search

## Latin Soul Fusion

S	N	O	I	S	U	F	T	A	U	O	K	Z	A
S	A	M	S	S	A	B	M	O	P	O	R	S	B
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bass  
rock  
jazz  
drums  
funk  
fusion

saxophone  
mambo  
boogaloo  
ukulele  
rhythm





# LAMusArt

Los Angeles Music and Art School

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The Los Angeles Music and Art School (LAMusArt) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to offer the community of East Los Angeles, primarily its K-12 population, with equitable and affordable access to multidisciplinary arts education programs.

The services we provide as a cornerstone of arts education are integral to the community's cultural identity. Since its founding in 1945 by Ms. Pearle Irene Odell, LAMusArt has served over 100,000 students, employed over 200 Teaching Artists, and provided over 2,000,000 lessons.

We believe affordable and accessible arts education programs work to benefit the students and the community by expanding one's world outlook, sharpening one's creative skills, and contributing to one's social, behavioral, and academic development.





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