

Jazz ensemble rocks SU

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The Latin Jazz Ensemble at San Jose State University blew through the Student Union at noon to hold an hour-long rehearsal.

Music professor Dan Sabanovich stated in his brochure for the reunion concert the SJSU Latin Jazz ensemble's primary objective is to preserve Afro-Cuban musical traditions through music education and performance.

According to the brochure the group's new CD, "Moment in Time," or "Tiempo en Momento," sold out at the Tower Records booth within two hours after the group's Monterey Jazz Festival appearance in September.

"The CD we recorded included some members of the ensemble not present at today's rehearsal," said senior engineering major Ervin Rosario.

Rosario said he plays congas for El Boricua, a Puerto Rican salsa band that has recorded at least four songs. He said Puerto Ricans were known as Boriquens before the Spanish arrived.

Senior John Caredio said he had been playing trumpet with the ensemble for four years. He said he toured around the United States and Canada with the reggae group Inca Inca during the 1990's.

Rosario said there were three new members who took over for those who graduated last year.

"We've had members that have even gone on to play with such artists as Carlos Santana," Sabanovich said.

Ensemble member Alex Specht said he was in his first semester with the ensemble. He said they rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday in the SJSU Concert Hall.

Specht said he also had a solo venture with Yvette's Mambo Tropical, a salsa troupe who plays the restaurant Havana, Cuba on Race Street every Wednesday night.

Music major and graduate student Teresa Orozco said she played with the same group as Specht.

"I've been playing professionally as well as with the ensemble at SJSU," Orozco said. "I'm finishing up grad school after 13 years of playing with professionals such as the San Jose Opera," she said.

Orozco said she was used to playing with Latin bands such as Yvette's Mambo Tropical, of which Specht is also a member.

Sabanovich said one of the final songs was a tribute to Tito Puente, an Afro-Cuban composer, titled, "Puente of Soul."