



### **Biography**

Kiko Jimenez was influenced by Afro-Caribbean Jazz at an early age. Originally mentored by his uncle Nei Maldonado, a Guiro Master on Jibaro Jazz.

Kiko Jimenez was involved in Afro-Caribbean Jazz at an early age of 12. Kiko followed his path by becoming involved with the guiro, bongos, congas, maracas, timbales and castanets.

He studied La Clave and congas privately with percussionist from PR and from Cuba.

Kiko honed his abilities in Jazz Ensembles at Humphreys By the Bay, Croces, The Juke Joint, Casa De Los Sueños-Mexico, and BB King House of Blues.

Kiko also had the privilege to be sponsored by drummer Skip Howlett known for his work with Mongo Santamaria, Tito Puente and Poncho Sanchez.

For 3 years, Kiko held a Sunday nightspot at the Juke Joint in San Diego.

Kiko was born, raised and educated in the Caribbean (Puerto Rico, Cuba, Santo Domingo) and those influences are very evident in his performances.

Kiko Jimenez obtained his Engineering degree in 1978 from the University of Puerto Rico.