



PA'LANTE

Vinyl. Dance. Spaces for everyone.



We are Catalina, Hermes and Gabriel: PA'LANTE, the core of Frente Salsero, the Latino collective from Cologne. We play salsa, cumbia, champeta and merengue on vinyl and share our knowledge in workshops, talks and panels.



FOR CLUBS, FESTIVALS, PARTIES

DJ Sets

Real vinyl for dance floors and parties. Solo, as a duo or as a trio.



FOR SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Workshop & Talk

Your own party, your own space. And: why we dance in dark times.

20+

events since 2022

up to 500

people per event

THE TRIO

PA'LANTE, Cologne

PA'LANTE ("forward") are Catalina Valencia, Hermes Villena and Gabriel Riquelme, the core of Frente Salsero, the postmigrant Latino collective from Cologne, founded in late 2022. The name Frente Salsero pays homage to Latin American resistance movements: el pueblo, the people.



Catalina Valencia

LA CATA MONTESA

In the collective since 2024. Colombian, music educator, 18 years in cultural management, festival curation and tour management, trained singer and pedagogue. With us: DJ, workshops, dance pedagogy.



Gabriel Riquelme

KID TABLÚ

DJ, record collector and promoter since the 90s, raised in a Chilean exile family in Germany. Formerly a dance teacher, he founded the club Bahnhof Ehrenfeld (CBE) in Cologne at 31. Historian, cultural manager, poet.



Hermes Villena

EL MENSAJERO

DJ, record collector, curator and artistic director, born in Bolivia and raised between Brazil, Bolivia and Germany. Long-time programmer of the Cologne jazz and bar club King Georg, curator of the Tom-Tom Discotec at Jaki in Cologne, member of the advisory board of Jazz Week Cologne. He builds musical bridges between jazz, soul, tropical sounds and salsa.

ICE. SPACES FOR EVERYONE. ✦ VINYL. DANCE. SPACES FOR EVERYONE.

CONTACT

Book, invite, ask

DJ set, workshop or talk: tell us what you have in mind. We send our fees on request.

or directly to

palantecologne@gmail.com

Instagram [@frentesalsero](https://www.instagram.com/frentesalsero) · [gabrielriquelme.de](https://www.instagram.com/gabrielriquelme.de)



PA'LANTE · Cologne · As of October 2026 · [Legal notice](#) · [Privacy](#)

DJ SETS

Our parents' music meets the sound of today

When the needle meets the groove, Ebertplatz in Cologne becomes the city's living room. We play only real vinyl: salsa dura and romántica, cumbia, merengue, soukous and champeta, plus current sounds, also on vinyl.

Our sets are a ritual for the dance floor: a celebration of life, diversity and the joy of music. Nobody has to explain themselves here. The music opens the doors, the rhythm connects.

- Clubs
- Festivals
- Parties in public space
- Openings
- Panels with music



20+
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LISTEN

Frente Sounds

Our playlist on Spotify.

[OPEN PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY →](#)

LINE-UP

Solo, duo or trio

Solo One person at the booth: Catalina, Hermes or Gabriel.	Duo Two of us share the evening.	Trio The three of us, for festivals and long nights.
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We adapt line-up and length to your occasion. Fees on request.

WHAT YOU GET

An attitude you can feel in the room

Community first	We play for the people in the room, not for the stage. Not event first.
Ego death	We are a tool of the dance floor, not its centre.
Ritual at the start	The booth is blessed, the space is opened.
All generations	Barrio and family parties, awareness built in.



REFERENCES

Where we have played

AS PA'LANTE AND FRENTE SALSERO

Ebertplatz, Cologne	Fiesta en el Barrio (Frente Salsero) at Ebertplatz in Cologne: regular, free entry, families and neighbourhood. The operators of the E-Café report: on our days the atmosphere of the square changes noticeably.
Neumarkt, Cologne	Booked by the City of Cologne, with our Ebertplatz concept.
King Georg and Jaki, Cologne	La Bohemia and La Recocho: club nights by Frente Salsero in two Cologne clubs.
Offene Jazz Haus Schule, Cologne	Community jam at the conference “Musik spricht”.

INDIVIDUALLY, IN MANY PLACES

As individual DJs we have played in a great many places and in very different contexts.

Catalina Valencia	Plays regularly in Cologne, among others at King Georg, Jaki and Stadtgarten. Also booked nationally and internationally, for example: Berlin en Salsa, Frankfurt am Main and most recently Madrid (La Cucaracha).
Gabriel Riquelme	DJ and radio host, among other things co-founder of Radio Sabor (for a long time Germany's biggest Latin party, 20 years as resident, about 1,500 guests a month). Also sets at CBE, Alter Wartesaal and Tanzhaus NRW, and at salsa festivals such as in Amsterdam and Šibenik (Croatia) ...
Hermes Villena	Booker at the King Georg jazz club in Cologne, at Jaki and at Stadtgarten Köln. Member of the advisory board of Jazz Week Cologne, curator of further festivals. As a DJ he has played in numerous cities, nationally and internationally, including the festival Le Guess Who? in Utrecht.
More	<u>Voices and references on request</u>

Looking for a workshop or talk? [TO WORKSHOP & TALK →](#)

CONTACT

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or directly to palantecologne@gmail.com

Instagram [@frentesalsero](#) · [gabrielriquelme.de](#)



WORKSHOP

Your own party, your own space

How do I open up a space for my community? We show it through our Fiesta en el Barrio at Ebertplatz in Cologne: from the first step (Who is the party for? Why this place? What is our stance?) through permits, technology, money and team to the invitation and the aftermath.

With a Reclaim-the-Streets attitude: taking spaces back, with music, dance and food.

We work with the body and in conversation: arriving and ritual, talk in parts, encounter, dance, exchange.

Everyone leaves with a handout to fill in for their own party.

THE THREE OF US

Who brings what

Gabriel KID TABLÚ The theoretical and spiritual part: he opens the space with a ritual and puts things in context.	Catalina LA CATA MONTESA Experience, knowledge and wisdom, plus energy and presence in the room.	Hermes EL MENSAJERO The sound: he carries the workshop with music, knowledge and years of experience.
1 Introduction Short workshop for everyone interested: festivals, neighbourhoods, cultural centres.	2 Deep dive Longer format for cultural workers, organisers and musicians.	3 Professional format Conferences and seminars on music education and community music, up to university teaching.

We adapt duration, group size and depth. Fees on request.



TALK & PANEL

Music, joy and community as practice

Talks and panels are given by Gabriel Riquelme together with Catalina and/or Hermes. He delivers the essay “Islands in the Belly of the Beast” alone. For panels, conferences, cultural institutions and universities. Gladly followed by a set.

Why we dance in dark times	A keynote on dancing as counter-narrative, with Hall, Glissant, hooks and Gilroy in the luggage. Werkstatt studiobühneköln, School of Political Hope, 9 May 2026. Also in Spanish and German. LINE-UP: GABRIEL RIQUELME WITH CATALINA AND/OR HERMES
Opening spaces, building community	Music education as community practice. Offene Jazz Haus Schule Köln, conference “Musik spricht”, 2026. LINE-UP: GABRIEL RIQUELME WITH CATALINA AND/OR HERMES
Islands in the Belly of the Beast	Essay by Gabriel Riquelme on diaspora, archipelagos and dance floors as counter-spaces. As a speech and as a starting point for conversations and panels. To be published in autumn 2026 in a publication of the Offene Jazz Haus Schule Köln. LINE-UP: GABRIEL RIQUELME ONLY

REFERENCES

Where we have shared knowledge

Ebertplatz, Cologne	Fiesta en el Barrio (Frente Salsero) at Ebertplatz in Cologne: the example we use in the workshop to show how a party in public space comes about.
Offene Jazz Haus Schule Köln	Keynote and workshop, very good feedback.
University of Cologne	Faculty of Arts and Humanities: seminar on music education and cultural work as identity practice, winter semester 2026/27.
More	<u>Voices and references on request</u>

Looking for a DJ set? [TO THE DJ SETS](#) →

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