



What I Did On My Vacation: Fatboy Slim (center, with drum) meets Andy Palacio (to his right).

ANDY PALACIO COLLABORATES WITH FATBOY SLIM

British dance music superstar Fatboy Slim visited Belize in early April to participate in a unique recording session with Andy Palacio, bringing together European club grooves with the rhythms and melodies of the Garifuna community.

Fatboy Slim (real name: Norman Cook) is a world-famous DJ whose records have sold millions of copies. Palacio is a Belizean musician whose critically acclaimed album *Wátina* was recorded in a shack on the beach.

The unlikely pairing was inspired by Fatboy Slim's fascination with Garifuna music. "We arrived here with no real songs, no real ideas. I came here with a CD with beats and bass sounds from England and about half an idea of what to do and over the last four days we've hung out with the local musicians, listened to what they do, tried to match the two and see what happens," he said of the sessions.

Working in the Mata Grande Recording Studio just north of San Pedro village, Fatboy Slim recorded members of the Garifuna Collective jamming on traditional Garifuna drums. Backup singers Cella Torres and Deseree Arana also provided vocals in the unique local style. Meanwhile, Andy Palacio wrote and sang a song for the sessions, and local spoken-word poet and dancehall singer the Grandmaster also made a guest appearance. Belizean music producer Ivan Duran of Stonetree Records was on hand to help with the interaction between technology and tradition.

The sessions produced three tracks that will be released by Fatboy Slim on his next album, possibly under the pseudonym The Mighty Dub Katz. Fatboy Slim has also offered to remix some tracks from Palacio's album *Wátina*.

DON HO, 1930-2007

Hawaiian music legend Donald Tai Loy "Don" Ho died April 14 of heart failure. He's best known for the song "Tiny Bubbles," which was a major hit upon its original release in 1966. Of Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, German and Dutch descent, he began performing in the early 1950s, and became a major tourist attraction in between television appearances (he even had his own network variety show in 1976 and 1977). He had 10 children by three wives, and one of his daughters, Hoku, scored two pop hits of her own in 2000.



PHOTO Marc Schechter