We are excited to announce that El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico will be playing at the Gran Baile for the XXXIII International Congress of LASA!

El Gran Combo is a Puerto Rican salsa orchestra started in 1962 by the expert guitarist Rafael Ithier. Latin Music Expert Carlos Quintana says the group is “the most popular Salsa group that has ever existed” and Caribbean enthusiast / Vassar College professor Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert said that El Gran Combo is “one of the most influential bands in the history of Salsa music.” El Gran Combo has fostered musicians like Andy Montañez, Celia Cruz and Héctor Lavoe, giving it the nickname “the University of Salsa.” The group celebrated its 50th anniversary back in November 2012 with a grand tour that took them to five continents. El Gran Combo’s popular hits include “Sin Salsa No Hay Paraíso” (2010), “Y No Hago Mas Na” (1983) and “No Hay Cama Pa’tanta Gente” (1985).

El Gran Combo performed at the Caribe Hilton in culture-rich San Juan, Puerto Rico back in 2006 for the XXVI International Congress of LASA, which was attended by over 4,800 people. We’re thrilled to host them again at our upcoming conference, and we hope you’re excited too!