Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra

Featuring the Cornel West Concerto

WHEN:
WEDNESDAY,
MAY 9, 2018
7:30 PM

VENUE:
BING
CONCERT HALL
Program

Arturo O’Farrill: Cornel West Concerto (2016)
Featuring special guest Dr. Cornel West

Commissioned by the Apollo Theater and premiered in May 2016, the Cornel West Concerto pairs text by the virtuosic speaker, scholar, and activist Dr. Cornel West with compositions by Arturo O’Farrill for the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra.

Other compositions will be announced from the stage.

Artists

Arturo O’Farrill, Leader and Piano
Abulrahman “Rocky” Amer, Trombone
Mercedes Beckmann, Alto Sax
Seneca Black, Trumpet
Larry Bustamante, Baritone Sax
Vince Cherico, Drum
Frank Cohen, Trombone
Bryan Davis, Trumpet
Keisel Jiménez, Percussion
Chad Lefkowitz-Brown, Tenor Sax
Carly Maldonado, Percussion
Rafi Malkiel, Trombone
Earl McIntyre, Bass Trombone
David Neves, Trumpet
Bobby Porcelli, Alto Sax
Iván Renta, Tenor Sax
Ricacrdo Rodríguez, Bass
Jim Seeley, Trumpet

This program is generously supported by the Koret Foundation and by the National Endowment for the Arts.
The Koret Jazz Project is a multiyear initiative to support, expand, and celebrate the role of jazz in the artistic and educational programming of Stanford Live.
Biographies

The Grammy Award–winning AFRO LATIN JAZZ ORCHESTRA (ALJO), led by pianist, composer, and director Arturo O’Farrill, brings together the drama of big band jazz, the culture of Latin music, and the virtuosity of eighteen of the world’s most accomplished solo musicians. Twelve years of critically acclaimed performances internationally, have firmly established the ALJO as the standard-bearer for creative interpretation of Latin jazz greats such as Tito Puente, Frank “Machito” Grillo, and Chico O’Farrill, as well as the driving force behind new commissions from Latin music’s most talented composers and arrangers. Presenting programs that range from the very best in dance music sure to bring audiences to their feet, to repertoire that pushes the genre forward, the ALJO commissions and performs innovative compositions and big band arrangements by Vijay Iyer, Miguel Zenón, Dafnis Prieto, Guillermo Klein, Pablo Mayor, Arturo O’Farrill, Michele Rosewoman, Emilio Solla, Papo Vazquez, and many others.

The orchestra’s debut album, Una Noche Inolvidable, was a 2006 Grammy nominee and their second; Song for Chico (ZOHO) won the Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album of the Year in 2008. ALJO’s third album, 40 Acres and a Burro (ZOHO) was a 2012 Grammy nominee for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album. ALJO’s latest release, The Offense of the Drum (Motéma) won the group’s second Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album of the Year in 2014. The ALJO has thrilled audiences at Midsummer Night Swing at Lincoln Center, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Boston Symphony Hall, Celebrate Brooklyn Festival, the Newport Jazz Festival, the Litchfield Jazz Festival (Kent, CT), The Joyce Theater (with Ballet Hispánico), Rialto Center for the Performing Arts (Atlanta, GA), Mahalia Jackson Theater—with Ballet Hispánico (New Orleans) Megaron Concert Hall (Athens, Greece), and the Taichung Jazz Festival (Taichung, Taiwan), among other venues.

Their release, Cuba: The Conversation Continues, was recorded in December of 2014 during the historic reestablishment of diplomatic ties between the United

Arturo O’Farrill (Photo by John Abbott)
States and Cuba. It was released on August 21st, 2015, on Motéma.

The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra had been formerly an artist-in-residence at the Harlem School of the Arts and is the resident headliner Sunday night at the Birdland Jazz Club.

**ARTURO O’FARRILL**, pianist, composer, and educator, was born in Mexico and grew up in New York City. He received his formal musical education at the Manhattan School of Music, Brooklyn College Conservatory, and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. Arturo's professional career began with the Carla Bley Band and continued as a solo performer with a wide spectrum of artists including Dizzy Gillespie, Lester Bowie, Wynton Marsalis, and Harry Belafonte.

In 2007, he founded the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the performance, education, and preservation of Afro Latin music. Learn more at www.afrolatinjazz.org.

In December 2010 Arturo traveled with the original *Chico O'Farrill Afro Cuban Jazz Orchestra* to Cuba, returning his father's musicians to his homeland. He continues to travel to Cuba regularly as an informal Cultural Ambassador, working with Cuban musicians, dancers, and students, bringing local musicians from Cuba to the US and American musicians to Cuba. Concurrently, Arturo is the Director of Jazz Studies at CUNY's Brooklyn College.

During the 2016–17 season, Arturo performed with orchestras and bands including his own Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra and Boss Level Sextet, as well as other Orchestras and smaller ensembles in the U.S., Europe, Russia, Australia, and South America.

An avid supporter of all the Arts, Arturo has performed with Ballet Hispanico and the Malpaso Dance Company, for whom he has written three ballets. In addition, the Alvin Ailey Dance Company is touring a ballet entitled *Open Door*, choreographed by Ron Brown to several of Arturo's compositions and recordings. Ron Brown's own Evidence Dance Company has commissioned Arturo to compose *New Conversations*, which premieres Summer of 2018 at Jacob's Pillow in Becket, MA.

Arturo has received commissions from Meet the Composer, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Philadelphia Music Project, The Apollo Theater, Symphony Space, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the Young Peoples Chorus of New York, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Arturo's well-reviewed and highly praised “Afro-Latin Jazz Suite” from the album *CUBA: The Conversation Continues* (Motéma) took the 2016 Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Composition and the 2016 Latin Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album. His powerful “Three Revolutions” from the album *Família-Tribute to Chico and Bebo* was the 2018 Grammy Award (his sixth) winner for Best Instrumental Composition.