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**FOUR-TIME GRAMMY NOMINEE ENSEMBLE  
PLENA LIBRE  
SET FOR  
THE HOSTOS CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015 / 7:30 P.M.**

*A mad weave of polyrhythms that simply sizzles...*

The Boston Herald

**Tickets: Orch: \$25 / Mezz: \$20 / Students and Under 18: \$12, \$10**

**(April 3, 2015 Bronx, NY)** – The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture (Hostos Center) continues its 2015 Spring season with *Plena Libre*, the four-time Grammy Nominee 12-piece ensemble from Puerto Rico, called the “torch bearers” of the modern incarnation of the Puerto Rican *bomba* and *plena* traditions. *Plena Libre* will perform in the Main Theater at Hostos Community College on Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for orchestra seats, \$20 for mezzanine, and \$12 and \$10 for students and under 18, and are available through the Hostos Center Box Office, open Mon. – Fri, 1 PM to 4 PM; on line through [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org) ; or by calling (718) 518-4455. Tickets will also be available on the day of performance beginning at 5:30 PM.

Helmed by music veteran Gary Nuñez, *Plena Libre*'s musical director is an educated and established musician, who for the past 18 years has worked to make *Plena Libre* into one of the most popular world music ensembles. Nuñez served as executive producer of all thirteen albums and has contributed over fifty original musical compositions performed and recorded by the group, which embody a new lyrical perspective for the "plena."

*Plena Libre*'s touring has included numerous festivals in the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, England, Belgium, Slovenia, Netherlands, Africa, and Malaysia. They have performed on some of the most prestigious festival stages including: the Mid-Summer Festival, Lincoln Center; The Kennedy Center; San Francisco Jazz Festival; Los Angeles Grand Performances; Montreal Jazz Festival; Winnipeg Folk Festival; Vancouver Jazz Festival; Festival Tempo Latino; Roskilde Festival; Amsterdam Roost Festival; Morocco Fez Jazz Festival; the Volvo World Music Festival and many more.

*Bomba* and *plena* are musical traditions from Puerto Rico that resulted from the African diaspora present in the Caribbean since colonial times. *Plena* evolved and developed out of *bomba* around the beginning of the 20th century in southern Puerto Rico. *Plena* lyrics convey a story about current events or satirical commentary. *Plena* has been described as the "the newspaper of the people." The main difference between *bomba* and *plena* is that *plena* has only one basic rhythm while *bomba* has sixteen. *Plena* instrumentation has changed over the years but for its essential hand-held drum, called the *pandereta* or the *requinto*.

*Plena Libre* is Gary Nuñez's idea of what and how music can evolve and transform with time without losing its indigenous and fundamental sounds. *Plena Libre* plays homage to the sounds of Puerto Rico while it visits and connects with the rest of the Caribbean including performing salsa, merengue, mambo and more.

Hostos Center events are sponsored by the Hostos Community College Foundation with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Office of New York City Councilwoman María del Carmen Arroyo, the Office for New York State Assemblyman José Rivera, and the Office of New York State Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo. Promotional support is provided by Capicu Cultural Showcase.

For more information about *Plena Libre* visit: [www.plenalibre.com](http://www.plenalibre.com)

- What:** Plena Libre under the direction of Gary Nuñez
- When:** Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 PM (Doors Open at 7:00 PM)
- Where:** Hostos Main Theater, The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture  
Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451
- Tickets:** Orch: \$25/ Mezz: \$20 / Students and Under 18: \$12 , \$10
- Box Office:** [718-518-4455](tel:718-518-4455)
- Website:** [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org)
- Subway/Bus:** IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses Bx1, Bx2, Bx19 to 149<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Concourse

### **About the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture**

The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture consists of a museum-grade art gallery, a 367-seat Repertory Theater, and a 900-seat Main Theater, presenting artists of national and international renown. It is easily accessible from Manhattan, Queens and New Jersey and is a mere 15 minutes by subway from midtown Manhattan. Over the years, the Center has presented and

exhibited such artists as Rubén Blades, Dizzy Gillespie, Eddie Palmieri, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Ballet de San Juan, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Ballet Hispánico, Jennifer Mueller, The Works, Antonio Martorell, Faith Ringold, Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony, Tito Puente and Lucecita Benítez.

### **About Hostos Community College**

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change that has been transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities since 1968. It serves as a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, as well as a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced higher education programs. The College's unique "Student Success Coaching Unit" provides students with individualized guidance and exemplifies its emphasis on student support services. Hostos offers 29 associate degree programs and five certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to CUNY's four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions. The College has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development that offers professional development courses and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. Hostos is part of The City University of New York (CUNY), the nation's leading urban public university, which serves more than 480,000 students at 24 colleges.

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