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**ROY BROWN & EL TOPO
BELOVED PUERTO RICAN FOLK SINGERS
TO PLAY CONCERT
AT THE HOSTOS CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE**

**COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF
DON PEDRO ALBIZU CAMPOS
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015 / 7:30 p.m.**

Tickets: Orch: \$35 / Mezz: \$25 / Students and Under 18: \$17, \$12

(April 5, 2015 (Bronx, NY) – The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture presents two of Puerto Rico’s most beloved folk singers and the voices that marked a generation – Roy Brown and Antonio Cabán Vale “*El Topo*”. After more than decade away from New York City stages, the duo comes for a special concert commemorating the 50th anniversary of the passing of the revered political leader and champion of the Puerto Rican independence movement, Don Pedro Albizu Campos.

Roy Brown and El Topo will perform in the Main Theater at the Hostos Center at Hostos Community College on Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for orchestra; \$25 for mezzanine; and \$17 and \$12 for students and under 18, available through the Hostos Center Box Office, open Mon. – Fri. 1 PM to 4 PM, on line at www.hostoscenter.org or can be purchased by calling (718) 518-4455. Tickets will also be available on the day of performance beginning at 5:30 PM.

Hostos Center thanks New York Assemblyman Jose Rivera for his support of this important event.

Many Puerto Ricans, both on the island and on the mainland United States, consider Roy Brown and El Topo to be the most important Puerto Rican exponents of the *nueva canción latinoamericana* movement. Their songs are considered national treasures and mark an era of

Puerto Rican history that to this day elicits simultaneous voices and movements of nationalistic pride and idealistic debate. Brown's album *Profecía de Urayoán*, recorded entirely in Cuba in 1975, is a seminal album in Puerto Rican culture and El Topo's "Verde Luz" is an unofficial anthem of the Puerto Rican people.

La nueva canción is the musical movement that came out of Latin America in the late 50s, 60s, and 70s. Nueva canción emerged out of socio-political unrest within Latin America reacting against North American and European dominance and is associated with the revolutionary movements throughout the region. Other important artists from *la nueva canción* era include: Víctor Jara, Pablo Milanés, Violeta Parra, Silvio Rodríguez, Joan Manuel Serrat, Mercedes Sosa, and Atahualpa Yupanqui. A loose comparison can be made of the *nueva canción* with the counter culture-movement that took place in the United States in the 60s and 70s. The Roy Brown and El Topo concert will be a special evening with two legendary artists that have made thousands of Puerto Ricans feel proud of their heritage.

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.

About Roy Brown

Roy Brown is an American-Puerto Rican singer who began his career in the 70s, focusing his artistry around the movement for Puerto Rico's independence. His compositions have been recorded by: Celia Cruz, Pete Conde, Fania All Stars, Juan Manuel Serrat, Susana Baca, Lucecita Benítez, Cultura Profética, Hacienda Punto, Fiel a la Vega, Ismael Miranda, Andy Montañez, Jerry Medina, and Rucco Gandia. He has recorded duets with Silvio Rodríguez, Pablo Milanes, Zoraida Santiago, Tony Croatto, Danny Rivera, and Tito Auger. Roy Brown has also performed with the Puerto Rican Symphony Orchestra and the Arturo Somoano Philharmonic Orchestra. During his 45-year career, Brown has recorded close to 30 albums and composed more than one hundred songs. Among his best known works are: "Encántigo, Boricua en la luna," "Sal a caminar," "Pillo Buena gente," "Oubao moin," "En la vida todo es ir," "El Negrito Bonito," and "Árboles." Brown lived in New York City for 13 years and has performed in Germany, Holland, Spain, Greece, Mexico, Ecuador, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua, and in major cities in the United States. He currently lives in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. He has four children and is married to Emilie Viqueira.

About Antonio Cabán Vale, El Topo

Antonio Cabán Vale was born in the small town of Moca, Puerto Rico and moved to San Juan in the early 60s to attend the University of Puerto Rico. During his university years he gained notoriety for the poems that were being published in the paper, *Guajana*, the main publication dedicated to local poets. It was during this time he became known as *El Topo*. After earning his Bachelor's degree in 1966, he became a public school teacher. During his tenure as a teacher he continued writing and began composing music for his poems. By 1970, his songs were part of the repertoire of the musical group Taoné, which he founded. It was there his musical talent matured and his career as vocalist was launched.

At the height of *la nueva canción* El Topo gained great fame in the music world for the simplicity of his verses. He conquered audiences with such songs as “Flor de amapola,” “Qué bonita luna,” “Los lirios del campo,” “Dónde vés María” and “Solina, Solina.” However, it was the song “Verde Luz” that was considered to be one of the greatest contributions of the *nueva canción* movement in Puerto Rico. *Verde Luz* has achieved the legendary status alongside such songs as “Lamento borincano” and “En mi Viejo San Juan” considered as unofficial national anthems of Puerto Rico.

El Topo has produced over 20 albums, published poetry books, and throughout his musical career has performed in Argentina, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Venezuela, Spain, Brazil and the United States. His music has been performed by major artists such as Mercedes Sosa, Juan Luis Guerra, Ruben Blades, Pablo Milanes, Raúl Di Blasio, La Lupe, Lucecita Benítez, Robi Draco Rosa, Andy Montañez, Chucho Avellanet, Danny Rivera, José Feliciano, Sophy, Roy Brown, and Zoraida Santiago, among many others.

Pedro Albizu Campos] (September 12, 1891 – April 21, 1965) was a Puerto Rican attorney and politician, and the leading figure in the Puerto Rican independence movement. Gifted in languages, he spoke six; graduating from Harvard Law School with the highest grade point average in his law class, an achievement that earned him the right to give the valedictorian speech at his graduation ceremony. However, animus towards his mixed racial heritage would lead to his professors delaying two of his final exams in order to keep Albizu Campos from graduating on time. During his time at Harvard University he founded the Knights of Columbus, along with other Catholic students. He also became heavily involved in the Irish struggle for independence. Albizu Campos was the president and spokesperson of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party from 1930 until his death in 1965. Because of his oratorical skill, he was hailed as El Maestro (The Teacher).[He was imprisoned twenty-six years for attempting to overthrow the United States government in Puerto Rico.

In 1950, he planned and called for armed uprisings in several cities in Puerto Rico on behalf of independence. Afterward he was convicted and imprisoned again. He died in 1965 shortly after his pardon and release from federal prison, some time after suffering a stroke. There is controversy over his medical treatment in prison.

What: Roy Brown and El Topo in concert commemorating the 50th anniversary passing of revered political leader and champion of the Puerto Rican independence movement, Don Pedro Albizu Campos

Featuring: Roy Brown and El Topo

When: Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 PM (Doors Open at 7:00 PM)

Where: Main Theater, The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture
Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451

How much? **Orch: \$35 / Mezz: \$25 / Students and Under 18: \$17, \$12**

Box Office: 718-518-4455,, Mon. to Fri., 1 PM to 4 PM, and two hours prior to performance.

Website: www.hostoscenter.org

Subway/Bus: IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses Bx1, Bx2, Bx19 to 149th 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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