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Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture announces complete schedule, artistic personnel and activities for

Tito Puente: A Fifty-Year Retrospective of 'El Rey'

[Link to Artist Photos](#)

April 20 - 22, 2017

(Bronx, NY) – Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture has finalized the events, artists, and panel members for the Tito Puente Retrospective which will take place April 20 to 22 at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th Street), in the Bronx. Entitled “Tito Puente: A Fifty Year Retrospective of ‘El Rey’,” the festival is the first multi-day, in-depth examination of the maestro’s career from 1950 until his passing in 2000.

Under the artistic direction of former Puente Musical Director José Madera, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra bassist / composer / arranger Carlos Henríquez, and Puente historian and archivist Joe Conzo, Sr., the Retrospective is highlighted by three concerts in the Center’s Main Theater. With a host of New York’s top young jazz musicians, Henríquez leads “Puente for a New Generation” on Friday April 21, at 7:30 PM which covers Puente’s Latin Jazz era from 1967 to 2000. On Saturday, April 22 at 11:30 AM, Henríquez leads a free family concert “Who is the King of Latin Music?” as part of Lincoln Center Education’s Boro-Linc. That evening, at 7:30 PM, Madera leads The Mambo Legends in “Lost Treasures of the Palladium Era: 1950 to 1966.” In addition to these concerts, the Retrospective, over a three-day period, includes workshops, panel discussions, listening sessions, a film, and closes with a dance in the Hostos Café

Ticket information and a schedule of events are available at www.hostoscenter.org or by calling (718) 518-4455.

EVENTS

Film Screening

Opening the Retrospective on Thursday, April 20th at 7:30 PM in the Repertory Theater is the film *Tito Puente – the King of Latin Music*. This documentary includes rare footage of the legendary percussionist which was filmed just prior to his passing in 2000. In the film, “the King” discusses his 50-year career as a bandleader, the rise of Mambo and the development of Latin Jazz through the years. Following the screening, Puente’s longtime friends, **Joe Conzo, Sr.**, author of *Mambo Diablo: My Journey with Tito Puente* and Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center Vice President and concert producer **Robert Sancho**, who appear in the film, share their insights and personal stories of “El Rey” on his 94th birthday. Admission is free but tickets are required. (see below for details.)

Listening Room

Prior to the Friday evening and Saturday evening concerts, in the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos beginning at 6 PM, Conzo presents “The Listening Room,” one hour sessions that will include information and musical anecdotes about the concerts as well as never before heard recordings of Tito Puente from the different periods of his career. Conzo, who has lectured on Puente and Latin music for Hostos Community College’s Continuing Education division for the last four years, has more than 6,000 Puente recordings in his archive. Admission is free.

Opening Concert: Puente for a New Generation

For the opening concert, “**Puente for a New Generation**” on Friday, April 21, at 7:30 PM in the Main Theater, Bronx native **Carlos Henríquez**, who performed with Puente as a teenager and is the bassist for, and often leads, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, will premiere a 12-piece ensemble comprised of some of New York’s top young jazz musicians, for a fresh perspective on Puente’s music from 1967 to 2000. This was known as Puente’s “Latin Jazz era,” when the maestro moved away from the 17-piece band and embraced smaller ensembles. “Puente for a New Generation” artists include: Michael Rodríguez, Bruce Harris, Jonathan Powell and Kali Rodríguez, trumpets; Carl Maraghi, Ivan Renta, and Louis Fouche, saxophones; Robert Rodríguez, piano; Marcos López, timbales; Marcos Torres, congas; and Camilo Molina, bongos. Orchestra seating is \$30 and Mezzanine seating is \$25; \$5 for students and under 18. (see below for details)

Lincoln Center Education Family Concert: “Who is the King of Latin Music?”

As part of Lincoln Center Education’s Boro-Linc, Carlos Henríquez leads a slightly smaller ensemble and introduces families to the music of Tito Puente on Saturday, April 22 at 11:30 AM in the Main Theater. Henríquez, who is on the music faculty of Northwestern University, led a similar program to great acclaim with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra at the Rose Theater in 2014. Prior to the concert, children ages 5 to 10, and families, are invited to participate in a multi-disciplinary arts workshop that complements the concert, led by the performance artist Jadele McPherson at 10:30 AM. Admission to both the concert and the workshop are free, but tickets are required. The workshop has a limited capacity. (see below for details)

Latin Percussion workshop

Following the family concert at 1:30 PM, Mambo Legends Orchestra members **José Madera** and **John “Dandy” Rodríguez** as well as Nicaraguan-American Latin Jazz percussionist and educator **Annette Aguilar** lead a **Percussion Workshop** in the Black Box Theater. They will discuss and demonstrate the rudiments and nuances of Latin percussion including congas, bongos, and timbales. All ages are welcome. Admission is free but registration is required (see below for details)

Panel Discussion

“**Don’t Call it Salsa: The Impact of Tito Puente on Latin Music**” a panel discussion on Tito Puente’s impact on Latin jazz and Latin music follows in the Repertory Theater at 3:30 PM. **Loren Schoenberg**, Founder and Senior Scholar of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, moderates. Panelists include: Latin Jazz percussionist and educator **Annette Aguilar**; Puente archivist, biographer, and confidante, **Joe Conzo, Sr.**, bassist / bandleader **Carlos Henriquez**; the eminent Latin musicologist and record producer **René López**; former Puente Music Director **José Madera**; percussionist and *Tipica ‘73* founder, **John “Dandy” Rodríguez**, and Tito Puente’s eldest son, vibraphonist **Ronnie Puente**. Admission is free but tickets are required. (see below for details)

Closing Concert

The 18-piece **Mambo Legends Orchestra** perform “**Rediscovering Lost Treasures of the Palladium Era**” at 7:30 PM in the Main Theater. Led by José Madera, John “Dandy” Rodríguez, and Mitch Frohman, featuring many Puente Orchestra alumni, the music from this night will be from Puente’s early years, 1950 to 1966, known as the “Palladium Era,” after the dance venue that was transformational for Latin bands at the time. For this event, Madera, the Legends’ Music Director, has transcribed and arranged material from the six different instrumental iterations of the Orchestra, some of which has not been heard in over 50 years. Among the rarities to be performed from the 1950s include “Chang,” featuring guest vibraphonist Ronnie Puente (eldest son of Tito), “Caramelos,” featuring vocalist Cita Rodríguez, and “Tus Ojos.” Jim Byers, host of *The Latin Flavor* on Washington D.C.’s WPFW, will be the master of ceremonies. Orchestra seating is \$30 and Mezzanine seating is \$25; \$5 for students and under 18. (see below for details)

Dance Party

The Retrospective ends with **Dance Mania**, a dance party appropriately named after Tito Puente’s best-known and best-selling album, in the Hostos Café immediately after the performance at approximately 9:30 PM. Salsa Warrior DJ Roy will spin Puente’s hits for dancing. Tickets are \$10 and include two beverage tickets for wine or a soft drink. The Dance is available for concert ticket holders only.

Tickets are available and can be purchased by calling (718) 518-4455 or online at www.hostoscenter.org. All reservations and registrations for free events can be made by calling (718) 518-4455. Weekend passes for both evening concerts and the dance party can be purchased for \$45 and include the best available seats. Box Office window hours are Mon. – Fri., 1 PM to 4 PM. Hostos Community College can be reached by the IRT 2, 4, 5, and busses Bx1, Bx2, Bx19 to East 149th Street and the Grand Concourse.

This retrospective is made possible by the support of the Hostos Community College Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; 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; New York State Assemblyman José Rivera; New York City Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.; and Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center. Media partners include Univision 41 New York and WADO 1280 AM.

A Listing of Events and Biographies of the Artistic Directors Follow:

Hostos Center Announces Final Schedule and Artists for Tito Puente: A Fifty-Year Retrospective of 'El Rey'
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The full schedule of events for **Tito Puente: A Fifty-Year Retrospective of 'El Rey'**:

Thursday, April 20

Film: "Tito Puente – the King of Latin Music"
Repertory Theater, 7:30 PM
Free Admission (Tickets Required: 718-518-4455)

Friday, April 21

Music/Talk: Listening Room with Joe Conzo, Sr.
Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, 6:00 PM
Free Admission

Opening Concert: Puente for a New Generation with Carlos Henríquez & Friends
Main Theater, 7:30 PM
Orch: \$30 Mezz: \$25 (Students and Under 18: \$5)

Saturday, April 22

Family Concert: Who Is The King Of Latin Music?
Main Theater, 10:30 AM Pre-performance arts workshop
11:30 AM Carlos Henríquez Ensemble
Free Admission (Tickets Required: 718-518-4455)

Workshop: Latin Percussion
Black Box Theater, 1:30 PM
Free Admission (Registration Required: 718-518-4455)
Guest Artists: José Madera, John "Dandy" Rodríguez, and Annette Aguilar

Panel: "Don't Call it Salsa: The Impact of Tito Puente on Latin Music"
Repertory Theater, 3:30 PM
Free Admission (Tickets Required: 718-518-4455)
Participants: Annette Aguilar, Joe Conzo, Sr., Carlos Henríquez, René López, José Madera, Ronnie Puente, and John "Dandy" Rodríguez; moderated by Loren Schoenberg.

Music/Talk: Listening Room with Joe Conzo, Sr.
Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, 6:00 PM
Free Admission

Closing Concert: "Rediscovering Lost Treasures of the Palladium Era" with The Mambo Legends
Main Theater, 7:30 PM
Orch: \$30 Mezz: \$25 (Students and Under 18 - \$5)

Dance Party: Dance Mania
Hostos Café (Third floor), 9:30 PM (approx.)
\$10 (includes two beverage tickets for wine/soft drink)
Limited Capacity. Concert ticket holders only.

About José Madera

José Madera spent 31 years with the Tito Puente Orchestra, first serving as a percussionist and later as the musical arranger and the musical director. Today with the Mambo Legends Orchestra, Madera has recreated and rearranged much of the music that the band performed during the heyday of the Mambo. Prior to joining Tito Puente, Madera played with the famous Machito Orchestra. Later, he worked with the legendary Fania Records as a staff arranger. He has written many arrangements for countless Latin, pop, R&B, and jazz artists and has recorded with many of them, with over 250 recording and 75 album credits to his name, including Diana Ross, James Brown, Dizzy Gillespie, Celia Cruz, Chico O’Farrill, Lionel Hampton, Charlie Parker, amongst many others.

About The Mambo Legends Orchestra

The Mambo Legends Orchestra is made up of former musicians from the Tito Puente Orchestra, driven by their dedication to keep the sound of 1950s and 60s Palladium-era big band music alive. They are devoted to performing new creative Latin and Latin jazz concepts, while playing the music of Machito, Tito Rodríguez, and Tito Puente, the music of a time that critics call the "Greatest and Most innovative Era" in the history of Latin music. Performing together for over 30 years, they are led by John ‘Dandy’ Rodríguez, Mitch Frohman and musically-directed by José Madera, each having spent over 25 years working with Tito Puente.

About Carlos Henríquez

Carlos Henríquez was born in 1979 in the Bronx, New York. He studied music at a young age, played guitar through junior high school and took up the bass while enrolled in The Juilliard School’s Music Advancement Program. He entered LaGuardia High School of Music & Arts and Performing Arts and was involved with the LaGuardia Concert Jazz Ensemble which went on to win first place in Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival in 1996. In 1998, swiftly after high school, Henríquez joined the Wynton Marsalis Septet and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, touring the world and featured on more than 25 albums. Henriquez has performed with artists including Chucho Valdés, Paco De Lucia, Tito Puente, the Marsalis Family, Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Lenny Kravitz, Marc Anthony, and many others. He has been a member of the music faculty at Northwestern University School of Music since 2008, and was music director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra’s cultural exchange with the Cuban Institute of Music with Chucho Valdés in 2010.

About Joe Conzo Sr.

Joe Conzo, Sr. is the author of the acclaimed book “Mambo Diablo: My Journey with Tito Puente,” and was a long-time Puente publicist and confidant. He is the producer of many recordings by Puente as well as other Latin artists on prestigious labels such as Sony Music and Pablo. He lectures on Puente for Jazz @ Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian and other organizations, and produced more than 20 benefit concerts for the Tito Puente Scholarship Fund. Since 2013, he has taught a continuing education course on Latin music and Latin Jazz with a focus on Puente, Tito Rodríguez and Machito at Hostos and is writing a new book on the “Big Three” bandleaders. He also currently serves as the Director of the Tito Puente Legacy Project – an archive of Puente memorabilia based at the school.

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. www.hostoscenter.org

About Hostos Community College

Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change, transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities since 1968. Hostos serves as a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, and a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced higher education programs. The College’s unique "student success coach" program, which partners students with individualized guidance, is emblematic of the premier emphasis on student support and services. Hostos Community College is part of CUNY, the nation’s leading urban public university serving more than 480,000 students at 24 colleges. <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/>