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ARTURO O'FARRILL & THE AFRO LATIN JAZZ ORCHESTRA RETURN TO HOSTOS CENTER OCTOBER 17

Event Celebrates Release of the Acclaimed “Cuba: The Conversation Continues” with Guest Artists including the Cuban Composer /Vocalist Bobby Carcassés and Saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa

(Bronx, NY) – After making their world debut as an ensemble at The Hostos Center 13 years ago, 2015 GRAMMY Award winners **Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra** return to perform a Cuban-inspired concert recognizing the restoration of diplomatic relations and celebrating the release of their heralded new album recorded in Havana -- ***Cuba: The Conversation Continues*** on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The concert will include special guest artists who appear on the recording, including the legendary Cuba-based composer/vocalist/trumpeter **Bobby Carcassés**; *Downbeat* Critics’ Poll winner, alto saxophonist **Rudresh Mahanthappa**; the renowned Bronx turntablist **DJ Logic**; pianist/composer **Michele Rosewoman**, and Arturo’s son drummer / composer **Zack O’Farrill**.

Tickets for the performance in Hostos Center’s Main Theater are \$20 to \$25, with discounted student tickets at \$10, and are available through www.hostoscenter.org or by calling (718) 518-4455. The Box Office window is open Monday through Friday, 1 PM to 4 PM, and two hours prior to events. The Center is located on the campus Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse in the Bronx, just steps from the 149th/Grand Concourse subway station.

Inspired by the collaboration in the 1940s and “the continuing imaginary conversation” between the American jazz icon Dizzy Gillespie and the Cuban percussionist / composer Chano Pozo, **Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra** traveled to Havana in December of 2014 to record an album featuring music from Cuban and American composers including O’Farrill (Arturo and Zack), Carcassés, and Rosewoman performed by the orchestra with additional premier Cuban musicians. Just as they were going to begin recording, President Obama unexpectedly announced the restoration of full diplomatic relations with Cuba, and plans for the opening of an embassy in Havana for the first time in more than a half-century.

O’Farrill has been musically active in Cuba for more than a decade repairing the rupture between the two nations by promoting a cultural conversation despite political disengagement. His father, the late latin music legend **Chico O’Farrill**, was born in Cuba, but was unable to return to the island after the Revolution. He subsequently settled in the U.S. and died in New York in 2001, never seeing his homeland again due to Cold War travel restrictions. Arturo O’Farrill has been able to travel frequently to Cuba over the last decade but the announcement was still a surprise: "It was an emotional experience for me, a day that I had hoped would come for years."

Released by Motéma Music on August 21, 2015, the day restorations were formalized, *Cuba: The Conversation Continues* has received extensive media attention for its prophetic timing and critical acclaim for its artistry. Nate Chinen of *The New York Times* called the album, "worthy of its moment, an ambitious statement that honors deeply held musical traditions while pushing forward." The recording has also received heavy coverage from **National Public Radio** and **NBC News**.

The concert at the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture is to include Arturo O'Farrill's *Afro Latin Jazz Suite* (commissioned by the **Apollo Theater**) featuring Mahanthappa, which is the son's reflection on his father's seminal *Afro Cuban Jazz Suite* (which will also be performed). Carcassés will be featured as vocalist on his own composition *Blues Guaguancó*, Rosewoman will lead and be featured in her *Alabanza* which mixes Latin jazz, post-bop, Yoruba and Soul. The third generation O'Farrill will be featured in his own composition *There's a Statue of José Martí in Central Park*.

Grammy Award winning pianist, composer and educator **Arturo O'Farrill** -- leader of the "first family of Afro-Cuban Jazz" (*New York Times*) -- was born in Mexico and grew up in New York City. Son of the late, great composer Chico O'Farrill, Arturo was educated at Manhattan School of Music, Brooklyn College Conservatory and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. He played piano in Carla Bley's Big Band from 1979 through 1983 and earned a reputation as a soloist in groups led by Dizzy Gillespie, Steve Turre, Freddy Cole, Lester Bowie, Wynton Marsalis and Harry Belafonte. In 2002, he established the GRAMMY® winning **Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra** in order to bring the vital musical traditions of Afro Latin jazz to a wider general audience, and to greatly expand the contemporary Latin jazz big band repertoire through commissions to artists across a wide stylistic and geographic range.

The Orchestra made its debut at Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture in October of that year and has toured extensively throughout the world in addition to its regular home at Birdland, performance series at Symphony Space, and residency at the Harlem School of the Arts. In 2014, O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra released, *The Offense of the Drum* (Motéma Music), which won a GRAMMY® for "Best Latin Jazz Album." In 2007, O'Farrill established the **The Afro Latin Jazz Alliance** which is dedicated to preserving the music and heritage of big band Latin jazz, supporting its performance for new audiences, and educating young people in the understanding and performance of this important cultural treasure.

Bobbie Carcassés started out as an opera singer before switching to Cuban music and working as a vocalist at the Tropicana nightclub in Havana. It was here that he first began to experiment with incorporating scat and Bebop influences into his vocal style. By 1960 he was also known as a dancer and a multi-instrumentalist, playing trumpet, bass, congas and drums. In 1980, he organized the first Jazz Plaza Festival, bringing to Cuba a host of international artists including Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Haden and Airto Moreira. Carcassés has toured extensively throughout Europe and the USA, performing alongside Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri and many other big names of Latin jazz.

Rudresh Mahanthappa was born in Trieste, Italy, the son of Indian emigrants to the United States. He is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music and Chicago's DePaul University. After moving to New York in 1998, he quickly teamed up and released an album with pianist Vijay Iyer, *Architextures*, the first of many collaborations. Mahanthappa, whose most recent recording *Bird Calls* was released in February, has been named alto saxophonist of the year for three years running in *Downbeat Magazine's* International Critics Polls and for five years running by the Jazz Journalists' Association.

DJ Logic (Jason Kibler) was born and raised in The Bronx. An early interest in hip hop led to his using the turntables, practicing often. Kibler was also interested in funk and jazz music, and began collaborating with

various musicians. His own recordings are perhaps best described as contemporary soul jazz with a strong hip hop feel. Kibler tours often with his own group, Project Logic, and has recorded or performed with Vernon Reid, moe., John Mayer, Medeski Martin & Wood, Bob Belden, Jack Johnson, Chris Whitley, Uri Caine, Christian McBride and others.

Michele Rosewoman was born in Oakland, CA where she started playing piano at age six and studied with the great pianist/organist Ed Kelly. In her late teens she began playing percussion and studying and performing music that included Cuban/Haitian folkloric idioms. Since moving to New York in 1978, Rosewoman formed new ensembles to present her music while collaborating with Rufus Reid, Reggie Workman, Freddie Waits, James Spaulding, Billy Hart, Carlos Ward and others as well as with Cuban master drummer/vocalist, Orlando 'Puntilla' Ríos, and other musicians in the folkloric community. She received an NEA grant to form the pioneering 14-piece ensemble "New Yor- Uba, A Musical Celebration of Cuba in America" that debuted at The Public Theater, and appeared at the Hostos Center in 2009.

Zack O'Farrill was born and raised in Brooklyn New York. He began playing drums at the age of 8 and started performing regularly when he was 13 at Puppet's Jazz Bar in Brooklyn. He attended LaGuardia Arts High School for the Performing Arts and completed his Bachelor's Degree at the City University of New York's Macaulay Honors College at City College. O'Farrill has performed at some of the top venues in New York City, such as Birdland, Smoke, Dizzy's, and The Jazz Gallery, as well as internationally as the Mt. Fuji Jazz Festival in Japan, the Havana Plaza Jazz Festival in Cuba, Marion's Jazz House in Bern, Switzerland, and the Nova Jazz Cava in Terrassa, Spain. He performs regularly with the jazz trio, TRES, which features pianist Albert Marques and bassist Walter Stinson.

[Press Images for Concert](#)

What: CUBAN CONVERSATION

CD Release Event for *CUBA: The Conversation Continues*

Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra with Bobby Carcassés, Rudresh Mahanthappa, DJ Logic, Michele Rosewoman, Zack O’Farrill

When: Saturday, October 17, 2015, 7:30 PM

Where: Main Theater

Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture

450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451

How much? : \$25, \$20 (\$10 for student and Under 18)

Phone Number: 718-518-4455

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.

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 offers 29 associate degree programs and 5 certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to The City University of New York (CUNY) 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 Community College is part of CUNY, the nation’s leading urban public university serving more than 480,000 students at 24 colleges.