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Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture presents

Bobby Sanabria and the MultiVerse Big Band

Performing

WEST SIDE STORY: Reimagined

Celebrating the Centennial of Composer Leonard Bernstein

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 7:30 PM

[LINK TO HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS](#)

(Bronx, NY) – Celebrating the centennial (1918 – 2018) of its composer -- Leonard Bernstein -- the multi-Grammy nominated Bobby Sanabria and the MultiVerse Big Band pay tribute to *West Side Story*, the theatrical production that redefined the American musical, reimagined with an all new instrumental Latin jazz score. The 21-piece ensemble will perform the work at the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th Street) in the Bronx, on Saturday, March 17, 7:30 PM in the Main Theater. Tickets range from \$25 to \$35 with student tickets at \$5 and can be purchase online at www.hostoscenter.org or by calling (718)-518-4455. The box office is open Monday to Friday, 1 PM to 4 PM and will be open two hours prior to performance.

According to Sanabria, Bernstein’s “genius of utilizing the tri-tone, the interval of jazz harmony, along with several Latin American musical styles is something that was never heard on the Broadway Stage.” Reimagined expands upon the original Latin American styles utilized by Bernstein to include: Venezuelan joropo, Puerto Rican bomba and plena, Dominican merengue, Brazilian samba and samba cansao, Cuban mambo, cha-cha-cha, bolero, son montuno, West African-rooted bembé, and American funk and swing. The combination provides the musicians an “explosive platform as jazz soloists,” says Sanabria.

Sanabria commissioned a number of New York-based arrangers to take on the reimagining of the work including: Jeremy Fletcher, Niko Seibold, Jeff Lederer, Matt Wong, Danny Rivera, Eugene Marlow, Nathan Sparks, Andrew Neesley and Takao Heisho. The work was debuted at the Manhattan School of Music with the MSM Afro-Cuban Orchestra in February 2017, with Bernstein’s son Alexander in attendance, and then for a sold-out run with the four-time Grammy nominated MultiVerse Big Band, led by Sanabria, at Jazz at Lincoln Center in November. A live recording from those performances will be released later this year.

West Side Story is a musical with a book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and conception and choreography by Jerome Robbins. It was inspired by William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. The story is set in the Upper West Side neighborhood in New York City in the mid-1950s, an ethnic, blue-collar neighborhood (in the early 1960s, much of the neighborhood was cleared in an urban renewal project for the Lincoln Center, which changed the neighborhood's character). The musical explores the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. The members of the Sharks, from Puerto Rico, are taunted by the Jets, a white gang. The young protagonist, Tony, a former member of the Jets and best friend of the gang's leader, Riff, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance scenes, and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theatre. The 1961 musical film version won ten Academy Awards.

About Bobby Sanabria

Seven-time Grammy nominee as a leader, drummer, percussionist, composer, arranger, educator, documentary film producer, and activist, Bobby Sanabria is a native Nuyorican born and raised in New York's South Bronx. His unique perspective comes from having performed and/or recorded with every major figure in the development of what today is known as Latin jazz. From the genre's acknowledged creator, maestro Mario Bauzá, for whom Bobby recorded three Grammy-nominated CDs and worked as the drummer in his Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra for ten years, to Mongo Santamaria, with whom he started his career, to Tito Puente, Chico O'Farrill, Ray Barretto, Larry Harlow, Candido, Dizzy Gillespie, Marco Rizo, and many more.

A noted educator and clinician, Bobby Sanabria is on the faculty of Manhattan School of Music and of the Jazz & Contemporary Music Program at the New School and directs both schools' Afro-Cuban jazz orchestras. In 2000 Sanabria's groundbreaking Grammy-nominated CD *Live & In Clave!!!* was hailed by the jazz press worldwide for its futuristic take on the big band Latin jazz tradition. Grammy nominations followed for his *Big Band Urban Folktales* (2008) and, with the MSM Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, *Kenya Revisited Live!!!* (2009), a tribute and re-working of the Machito Afro-Cubans' legendary *Kenya* album, and *Tito Puente: Masterworks Live!!!* (2011). He has worked as a producer, advisor, and on-air personality on the award-winning documentaries *The Palladium Where Mambo Was King* (Bravo, 2003), *From Mambo to Hip Hop* (PBS, 2007), *Latin Music U.S.A.* (PBS, 2009), and *I Like It Like That: The Story of Latin Boogaloo* (2015). He is the Co-Artistic Director/Curator of the Bronx Music Heritage Center and the Artistic Director/Artist in Residence of the Roberto Ocasio Memorial Latin Jazz Camp for High School Students in Cleveland, Ohio.

MUSIC FROM *WEST SIDE STORY* TO BE PERFORMED

“Prologue” (arranged by Jeremy Fletcher)

“Jet Song” (arranged by Niko Siebold)

“America” (arranged by Jeff Lederer)

“Gee, Officer Krupke” (arranged by Jeremy Fletcher)

“Tonight” (arranged by Matt Wong)

“Gym Scene / Mambo” (arranged by Danny Rivera)

“Gym Scene / Cha Cha Cha” (arranged by Nathan Sparks)

“Maria” (arranged by Eugene Marlow, additions by Bobby Sanabria)

“One Hand, One Heart” (arranged by Jeremy Fletcher)

“Cool” (arranged by Andrew Neesley)

“The Rumble” (arranged by Takao Heisho)

“Somewhere” (arranged by Jeremy Fletcher)

“Finale” (arranged by Jeremy Fletcher)

BOBBY SANABRIA MULTIVERSE BIG BAND

Trumpets: Kevin Bryan, Shareef Clayton, Max Darchè, Andrew Neesley

Saxophones: David Dejesus (alto, clarinet, soprano, flute), Andrew Gould (alto, soprano, flute), Peter Brainin (tenor, flute), Jeff Lederer (tenor, flute), Danny Rivera (baritone, bass clarinet)

Trombones: Dave Miller, Tim Sessions, Armando Vergara, Chris Washburne (tuba also)

Flute/Piccolo: Gabrielle Garo

Electric Violin: Ben Sutin

Rhythm: Silvano Monasterios (piano), Leo Traversa (electric bass), Oreste Abrantes (congas), Matthew Gonzalez (bongó/cencerro, baríl de bomba), Takao Heisho (percussion), Bobby Sanabria (drums)

About the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture

Founded in 1982, The Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, based at Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, serves the cultural needs of residents of the South Bronx and similar inner-city communities who do not have the means or inclination to attend arts events in mid-town Manhattan. The Center, which includes a 900-seat theater, a 367-seat theater, and museum-grade art gallery, creates forums in which the cultural heritages of its audiences are affirmed and nurtured. The Center's programming consists of a performing arts presenting series; a visual arts exhibiting series; periodic festivals promoting cultural traditions, especially Afro-Caribbean; The Hostos Repertory Company; and an individual artists' program with commissions and residencies. Nearly 60,000 partake in the Center's programs each year.

www.hostoscenter.org

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 for nearly half a century. Since 1968, Hostos has been 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. Hostos offers 27 associate degree programs and two certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to The City University of New York's (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 is part of CUNY, the nation's leading urban public university, which serves more than 500,000 students at 24 colleges. <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/>

What: Bobby Sanabria & the MultiVerse Big Band perform *West Side Story: Reimagined*

When: Saturday, March 17, 2018, 7:30pm

Where: Main Theater, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451

How much? \$25 to \$35 (\$5 for students and Under 18)

Phone Number: 718-518-4455

Box Office: Window hours are Mon. – Fri., 1 PM to 4 PM and 2 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.