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**Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture presents**

**A Tribute to Dave Valentin & the Debut of Bill O’Connell’s (A.C.E.)  
Afro-Caribbean Ensemble**

**Saturday, April 6, 2019, 7:30 PM**

[LINK TO HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS](#)

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(Bronx, NY) – On Saturday, April 6, Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture presents a double bill of Latin jazz with a Tribute to Dave Valentin, featuring a quintet led by the late flutist’s musical director, pianist Bill O’Connell with virtuoso flutist Andrea Brachfeld, then following with the debut of Bill O’Connell’s most recent project A.C.E. (Afro-Caribbean Ensemble) featuring a nonet comprised of some of New York’s top jazz and Latin jazz artists.

The concert will be in the Repertory Theater at Hostos Community College, beginning at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$20, with student tickets at \$5, and can be purchased online at [www.hostoscenter.org](http://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.

In addition to O’Connell, the quintet includes original Dave Valentin Quartet members -- bassist Lincoln Goines and drummer Robby Ameen. Percussionist Román Díaz has been added to the group, and in the title role will be flutist Andrea Brachfeld, well-known for her musical abilities in jazz and Latin Jazz. Valentin said of Brachfeld, “with all due respect, she plays her buns off; one of the first ladies to disprove the concept that only men can deal with the real deal...” The original quartet with Brachfeld have performed tributes to Valentin in different venues in New York and repeat engagements at the Blue Note in Tokyo.

For the second half of the program, O’Connell, who has had a long career as a Latin jazz artist, beginning in the mid-70s as pianist for the percussion legend Mongo Santamaria, has assembled some of New York’s top jazz musicians who will debut music from his new project ACE (Afro-Caribbean Ensemble) just prior to recording. In addition to O’Connell, Brachfeld, Goines, Ameen, and Díaz, the nonet includes Craig Handy (alto saxophone), Ralph Bowen (tenor saxophone), Gary Smulyan (baritone saxophone), Alex Sipiagin (trumpet), and Adam Machaskee (trombone).

### **About Dave Valentin (1952-2017)**

Dave Valentin was born of Puerto Rican parents in 1952 in the Bronx. His love for music started quite early; playing bongos and congas before he was 10 and even working Latin clubs in New York by 12. His talent and interest took him to the High School of Music and Art in New York City, where he began studying percussion. In college, Valentin changed to flute and complemented his formal education at school with private classes under master flutist Hubert Laws. While teaching music in the South Bronx public schools, Valentin appeared on his first recording in 1977 with Ricardo Marrero and The Group. Two years later, he was the first musician to be signed to the popular GRP recording label, where he made some fifteen recordings as a leader. In 2002, he won a Grammy Award with vibraphonist Dave Samuels and saxophonist / clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera for the Caribbean Jazz Project's recording *The Gathering*. In addition to leading his own groups that have toured all over the world, Valentin has served as musical director for Tito Puente and his Golden Men of Latin Jazz. In 2012, he had a stroke which left him unable to perform. In 2014, a fundraising concert featuring Eddie Palmieri, O'Connell, and others was held at Hostos Community College, where he appeared many times as a musical artist. After suffering another stroke in 2015, Dave Valentin died in 2017.

### **About Bill O'Connell**

Pianist Bill O'Connell is a native New Yorker who studied classical composition at The Oberlin Conservatory of Music. In 1977, he joined salsa great Mongo Santamaria, writing and performing with him for over two years. Following that he worked with Chet Baker and jazz legend Sonny Rollins with whom he toured the United States and Europe. O'Connell, an internationally recognized composer, has his original compositions on CDs by Mongo Santamaria, Emily Remler, Charles Fambrough, and on virtually every recording made by flutist Dave Valentin. Over the years, Bill has displayed his versatility performing, writing and arranging for numerous other jazz artists including Gato Barbieri, The Fort Apache Band, and vocalists Jon Lucien, Kenny Rankin, and Astrud Gilberto. Bill O'Connell has eight solo recordings and teaches at Rutgers University.

### **About Andrea Brachfeld**

Flutist, composer, arranger Andrea Brachfeld is a graduate of The High School of Music and Art and the Manhattan School of Music. Study with Hubert Laws, Jimmy Heath, George Coleman, and Mike Longo helped her develop her own improvisational style. Since she began her professional career as a musician at age 16, she has recorded and played many different genres of music, including Country Western, Charanga, Salsa, Latin Jazz, devotional music and Jazz. Some of the artists she has associated with include: Oscár Hernández, Tito Puente, Ray Barretto, Hubert Laws, Dave Valentin, Paquito D'Rivera, Steve Turre, Wallace Roney, and Bill O'Connell, among many others. Her breakthrough performance with the Latin band Charanga '76, catapulted her into Salsa history as the first female flutist to play this music in the United States. Her most recent CD, *If Not Now, When?* was released in May of 2018.

### **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](http://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:** Latin Jazz Double Bill

*A Tribute to Dave Valentin /& The Debut Bill O'Connell's ACE (Afro-Caribbean Ensemble)*

**A Tribute to Dave Valentin**

Andrea Brachfeld, flute  
Bill O'Connell, piano  
Lincoln Goines, bass  
Robby Ameen, drums  
Román Díaz, percussion

*Intermission*

**Bill O'Connell's ACE (Afro-Caribbean Ensemble)**

Bill O'Connell, piano  
Andrea Brachfeld, flute  
Craig Handy, alto saxophone  
Ralph Bowen, tenor saxophone  
Gary Smulyan, baritone saxophone  
Alex Sipiagin, trumpet  
Adam Machaskee, trombone  
Lincoln Goines, bass  
Robby Ameen, drums  
Roman Díaz, percussion

**When:** Saturday, April 6, 2019, 7:30 pm

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

**How much?** \$20 (\$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](http://www.hostoscenter.org)

**Subway/Bus:** IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses BX1, BX2, BX19 to 149th Street and Grand Concourse.