



Press contacts:

Aurora Flores -- aurora@aurora-communications.com / 212-876-1936

Soldanela Rivera -- srlopez@hostos.cuny.edu / 718-518-6872

John MacElwee -- jmacelwee@hostos.cuny.edu / 718-518-6539

MUSIC ICON LARRY HARLOW CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF ORCHESTRA HARLOW WITH THE LATIN LEGENDS AT HOSTOS

(Bronx, NY) – Celebrating his 75th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his salsa band, *Orchestra Harlow*, the acclaimed producer, composer, and pianist will lead his 15-piece ensemble, the Latin Legends, in a concert of salsa classics on Saturday, October 25, 7:30 PM at the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture.

The driving force behind more than 250 influential Latin jazz and salsa albums, from his tribute album “Arsenio” and the coming of age tune “Abran Paso,” to his opera *Hommy*, Harlow’s ensemble includes Fania All-Star alums: timbales player, **Nicky Marrero** and trombonist / violinist **Lewis Kahn** as well as such top Latin artists as drummers **Bobby Sanabria** and **Wilson “Chembo” Corniel** in addition to vocalists **Luisito Rosario**, **Emo Luciano**, and **Renzo Padia**. Tickets range from \$15 to \$35 and can be purchased by calling (718) 518-4455 or through www.hostoscenter.org

About Larry Harlow

Larry Harlow was born March 20, 1939 in Brooklyn. The son of entertainers, his mother sang and enjoyed operas while his father was the leader of the house band at the Latin Quarter, which featured the popular Latin rhythms of the times. A graduate of the prestigious N.Y. High School of Music and Art, Harlow excelled on the oboe, flute, violin, bass and the instrument that he is most noted for, the piano. It was at the school where the young musician heard the familiar Latin music strains from his summers in the Catskills, which led to his love of jazz and the piano styling of Art Tatum being replaced by the music of the New York Latino community where he found both improvisation and structure within an orchestral setting. This allure prompted Harlow’s travel to Cuba in the late 1950s where he attended the University of Havana. His two-year sojourn found him studying Afro-Cuban music in all its manifestations: from West African-based liturgical repertoire to popular dance styles, in addition to performing with the Island’s top musicians.

Leaving Cuba in late 1958 because of the Revolution, Harlow returned to New York where he worked both the Catskills and New York City, performing with musicians such as Ray Barretto, Tito Rodríguez, Machito, and Joe Cuba, the latter urging him to develop his sound for Latino audiences. At the age of 25, he formed Orchestra Harlow, and with a weekly residency at the legendary Chez José, a basement club on West 77th Street, he was discovered by Fania Records co-founders Jerry Masucci and Johnny Pacheco, who quickly signed him as the first act to their new recording company – Fania Records. Orchestra Harlow’s debut recording *Heavy Smoking*, the second in the label’s history after Pacheco’s, has been acclaimed for defining the Fania sound.

As the producer of more than 200 Fania titles, including those of the popular Fania All Stars, a sampling of the label’s bandleaders and their favorite sidemen, Harlow’s musical alchemy became a sought after seal of quality salsa productions. As an artist and bandleader, he recorded 60 albums and co-produced two feature films, *Our Latin Thing* and *Salsa*.

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In 1973, Harlow premiered his very large-scale *Hommy: A Latin Opera*, inspired by The Who's *Tommy*, at Carnegie Hall which helped to revive the career of the iconic singer Celia Cruz. The composer's 1977 salsa suite *La Raza Latina*, an ambitious musical timeline on the history of the Latin music and featuring the English vocals of a very young singer/songwriter Rubén Blades, was nominated for a Grammy Award. Larry Harlow was awarded a Lifetime Latin Grammy Award in 2008.

In 1994, Harlow formed the Latin Legends with Ray Barretto, Yomo Toro, and Adalberto Santiago with the aim of both educating Latino and American youth about Latin music heritage and pioneering new ideas in the music. In addition to performing, Larry Harlow frequently lectures at top universities including Harvard and Yale universities. The Latin Legends have made numerous recordings and have toured worldwide.

For ticket and general information, call the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture at: (718) 518-4455 or log onto www.hostoscenter.org

What: Larry Harlow's Latin Legends – Celebrating Larry Harlow's 75th Birthday and the 50th Year of His Orchestra

Featuring: Larry Harlow, leader/ piano; Ray Martínez, bass; Bobby Sanabria, drums; Nicky Marrero, timbales; Chembo Corniel, congas; Louie Bauzó, bongo/bata; Mac Gollehon, trumpet; Pete Nater, trumpet; Lewis Kahn, trombone/violin; Doug Beavers, trombone; Frank Fontaine, baritone saxophone/flute; Emo Luciano, lead vocals; Luisito Rosario, lead vocals; Renzo Padilla, lead vocals; Sound engineer: Bob Crawford.

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

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

How much? \$15, \$25, \$35

Box Office: 718-518-4455 Mon-Fri. 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM, and two hours prior to show

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

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.

Recently named one of the top 10 finalists for the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, 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 480,000 students at 24 colleges.