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PAPO VÁZQUEZ CELEBRATES 40 YEARS AS LATIN JAZZ ARTIST

Hostos Center Concert to feature Grammy-nominated trombonist with the Mighty Pirates Troubadours and special guests Joe Locke and Jerry Medina

Bronx, N.Y. (April 3, 2016) – Grammy-nominated trombonist, composer, and arranger Papo Vázquez celebrates 40 years in music, spanning the Afro-Caribbean, jazz, Latin and classical music worlds, in a concert with his septet, the Mighty Pirates Troubadours, on Saturday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, located at 450 Grand Concourse in The Bronx.

Joining Vázquez and the Troubadours are two special guests, vibraphone master Joe Locke and the Puerto Rican trumpeter and vocalist Jerry Medina. Additional guests, including poet and community activist Felipe Luciano, are expected to join in the celebration. Tickets are \$20 (\$5 for students) and are available online at HostosCenter.org or by calling (718) 518-4455. Box office window hours are Monday through Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and two hours prior to performance.

Born in 1958 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to a Puerto Rican family, **Papo Vázquez** spent his early years in Puerto Rico but was raised in North Philadelphia. After playing in local Latin bands, he moved to New York where he found employment in trumpeter Alfredo “Chocolate” Armentero’s band. Soon, he began playing and recording with top salsa artists including: The Fania All-Stars, Ray Barretto, Willie Colón, Grupo Folklórico y Experimental Nuevayorquino, Eddie Palmieri, Larry Harlow, and Hector LaVoe.

Vázquez also became a key player in New York’s burgeoning Latin jazz scene of the late 1970s, and was a founding member of The Fort Apache Band, with brothers Jerry and Andy González, and Conjunto Libre. He was also a founding member of Puerto Rico’s popular Latin fusion band Batacumbele, performing and recording several albums with the group from 1981 to 1985. Upon his return to New York, he joined Tito Puente’s Latin Jazz Ensemble, traveling with them as principal trombonist. He also toured Europe with Dizzy Gillespie’s United Nations Orchestra.

As a composer, Vázquez was the first artist to receive a composer’s commission (“Iron Jungle”) from the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, then a resident orchestra at Jazz at Lincoln Center. His first classical composition, “Palomita - Afro-Caribbean Suite” for chamber orchestra, was commissioned by The Bronx

Arts Ensemble and premiered at the Hostos Center in 2004. In 2007, on a commission from the Bronx River Arts Center, he wrote "Sube el Rio" (River Rising) for the Mighty Pirates Troubadours. He has premiered additional compositions for the Bronx Arts Ensemble, Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, the Painted Bride Art Center, Pregones Theater, and many other organizations.

As a leader, Vázquez has recorded extensively, including six recordings with his ensemble The Mighty Pirates Troubadours of which "Marooned/Aislado," was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2008. As a sideman, he has appeared on Wayne Shorter's Grammy-winning "Alegría" and the late Cuban pianist Bebo Valdes' Grammy-winning "Bebo de Cuba, Calle 54."

He also has recorded with Milton Cordona, Chico O'Farrill, Dave Valentín, The Fania All Stars, Ray Barretto, Juan Luis Guerra and many more. Vázquez' most recent recording "Spirit Warrior" with the Mighty Pirates Troubadours was released in 2015. The Mighty Pirates Troubadours include: Papo Vázquez, trombone; Willie Williams, saxophone; Rick Germanson, piano; Dezron Douglas, bass; Joel Mateo, drums; Gabo Lugo, percussion, and Reinaldo De Jesús, percussion.

While still in high school at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, **Joe Locke** performed with Dizzy Gillespie and Mongo Santamaría. Since moving to New York City in 1981, Locke has performed and/or recorded with Kenny Barron, Dianne Reeves, Eddie Daniels, Jerry Gonzalez' Fort Apache Band, Rod Stewart, Eddie Henderson, Bob Berg, The Mingus Big Band among many others. Locke has toured extensively throughout the world, both as leader and guest soloist. Some highlights include a 16-city tour of Russia, which culminated in a concert with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra; a 30-city tour of all major capitals of Europe, performing Charles Mingus' magnum opus, "Epitaph," as a featured soloist under the direction of the late conductor Gunther Schuller; and a series of duet concerts in Italy with pianist Cecil Taylor. Locke has released more than 30 recordings as a band leader. His most recent release on the Motéma label, "Lay Down My Heart – Blues & Ballads Vol. 1," reached the No. 1 position of the *Jazz Week* album charts in July 2013.

Now a resident of Puerto Rico, trumpeter and vocalist **Jerry Medina** grew up in New York and studied trumpet with his mother, trumpeter Lydia Ortega. After completing his degree at the University of Puerto Rico, Medina joined the Ismael Miranda Orchestra. He later became a member of the Puerto Rican fusion Latin ensemble Batacumbele, a group which featured such artists as Giovanni Hidalgo and Papo Vázquez. He has also performed and recorded with Néstor Torres, Eddie Palmieri, Larry Harlow, Herb Albert, José Feliciano, the Puerto Rico Symphony and was the lead singer for Descarga Boricua. Jerry Medina has made two solo recordings, "Feelin' Allright" and "De Parranda con Jerry Medina."

Support for Hostos Center for Arts and Culture programs are provided by the Eugenio María de Hostos Community College Foundation, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the New York City Council, the Office of New York State Assemblyman José Rivera, and the Office of New York State Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo.

[LINKS TO ARTIST PHOTOS](#)

What: Papo Vázquez and the Mighty Pirates Troubadours with special guests Jerry Medina and Joe Locke
When: Saturday, April 30, 7:30 PM
Where: Repertory Theater
Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture
Hostos Community College
450 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
Pricing: \$20 (\$5 for students and under 18)
Box Office: 718-518-4455
Website: www.hostoscenter.org
Subway/Bus: IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses BX1, BX2, BX19 to 149th Street/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.

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