Arturo O'Farrill’s Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra Makes Royce Hall Debut Nov 7

LOS ANGELES—Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA (CAP UCLA) brings the buoyant sounds of Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra to Royce Hall, Saturday, November 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets ($29-$59) are available now at cap.ucla.edu, via Ticketmaster and at the UCLA Central Ticket Office 310.825.2101.

The entire 17-piece band makes a rare appearance on the West Coast in its Royce Hall debut, hot on the heels of the group’s newly-released album Cuba: The Conversation Continues which was recorded in Havana. The record captures the ongoing musical dialog of "an imaginary conversation between Dizzy Gillespie and Chano Pozo" and continues to repair the rift between the United States and Cuba with the power of this "universal" music.

Arturo O’Farrill is a pianist and composer based in New York City. He is the son of pioneering Latin jazz musician, arranger and bandleader Chico O’Farrill. When
his father died in 2001, Arturo became bandleader of the legendary Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra and took over the tradition of playing the NYC jazz institution Birdland each Sunday night. Soon thereafter, Wynton Marsalis offered O’Farrill the opportunity to form and lead an Afro-Cuban jazz band that would perform regularly at Lincoln Center. He named the new band the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra (ALJO), and opted for traditional jazz big band instrumentation with the addition of a three-piece Cuban percussion section.

Just as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong trumpeted liberty abroad during the Cold War, O’Farrill’s performing, touring and recording efforts are a symbol of the new political current. He is a modern day “jazz ambassador,” who fought for political normalization between the United States and Cuba through cultural diplomacy long before Obama’s announcement, that the U.S. would restore diplomatic relations with Cuba. The group was recording its latest album when the announcement came about.

Though he is a frequent Cuba traveler, the announcement was still a surprise: “It was an emotional experience for me, a day that I had hoped would come for years,” says Arturo O’Farrill. He was in Cuba performing at the Havana International Jazz Festival at the time of Obama’s announcement. In fact, the night before the historic announcement (Dec. 16), O’Farrill and his orchestra performed at the residency of the U.S. Chief of Mission in Havana with several Cuban musicians featured on Cuba: The Conversation Continues.

An auspicious moment in the celebrated composer/pianist’s 30-year career, the recording of Cuba: The Conversation Continues is a profound statement that’s a touchstone of diplomatic engagement and cultural healing.

**TICKET INFORMATION**
General tickets are available at cap.ucla.edu, all Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at 310.825.2101 or in person at the UCLA Central Ticket Office located in the southwest corner of the James West Alumni Center. UCLA student tickets are available for $15. UCLA faculty and staff for $25. Student rush tickets, subject to availability, are offered at $18 one hour before show time to all students with valid ID.

**PRESS REVIEW TICKETS/PHOTO PASSES/INTERVIEW REQUESTS:** Contact Jessica Wolf at jessica.wolf@arts.ucla.edu/

**IMAGES:** Available for download at cap.ucla.edu/press-images. Register for access.