



Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble

Fri, Oct 3, 2025 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

**CENTER
FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE
UCLA**

WELCOME TO THE 2025–26 SEASON

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross cultural platforms — by leading artists from around the globe.

Our mission aligns with UCLA's mission of education, research and civic engagement by providing cultural and experiential programs that provoke inquiry and facilitate connection and creativity.

cap.ucla.edu



Throughout history, in moments of uncertainty and transformation, it is the arts that have helped us hold the line — and imagine the horizon. As we move through a shifting political and cultural landscape, we return to the stage not only to reflect, but to lead.

Artists have long been the truth-tellers, the visionaries, the builders of bridges where none existed. In the face of fear or division, they light the way forward — sparking dialogue, resisting silence and creating the emotional commons where we rediscover our shared humanity. Art doesn't just document history — it shapes it. It asks bold questions. It offers sanctuary. And it dares us to dream.

For our 2025–26 season CAP UCLA invites you into a radical act of gathering across 30 performances with more than 100 artists from around the globe. Imagine a world where strangers become companions in belonging, where performance becomes public square and where artistic voices help us build a more compassionate and courageous society.

This season is more than a series of performances — it is a call to community. Exciting new theater, revolutionary music and dance remind us that unity is not an ideal — it is an act. The stage becomes our platform, our laboratory, our refuge. Here, we witness. We reckon. We rejoice.

Even in tumultuous times — especially in those times — art meets the moment. And so do we.

With hope and imagination,



Edgar Miramontes

Executive and Artistic Director





Photo by John Abbott

CAP UCLA presents

Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble

Fri, Oct 3, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Program duration: 90 minutes

No intermission

PALIHOTEL
WESTWOOD VILLAGE



Support provided by the Roslyn Holt Swartz & Allan J. Swartz Endowment for the
Performing Arts.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mexican-born composer, pianist and bandleader Arturo O’Farrill stands as a towering figure in contemporary music, renowned for his genre-defying virtuosity, leadership and unwavering commitment to social justice through music. O’Farrill’s compositions have been performed by Dr. Cornel West, pianist Lara Downes, the San Francisco Ballet and others. Hailed by *DownBeat* as “one of our greatest living pianists”, O’Farrill bridges the gap between traditional Latin rhythms, modern jazz and contemporary composition, continually pushing the boundaries of the art form while maintaining a profound connection to his roots. Beyond performing worldwide, O’Farrill is a passionate educator and advocate for social and political justice, using his platform to champion diversity and unity. As founder and director of both the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra (ALJO) and Belongó (formerly known as the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance), O’Farrill plays a pivotal role in nurturing cultural dialogue through the transformative power of music.

Driven by a desire to blend the rich traditions of Afro Latin music with the expansive possibilities of modern jazz, O’Farrill founded the ALJO in 2002. Since its founding, the ALJO has redefined the boundaries of Latin jazz while continuing to explore themes of cultural identity. The orchestra’s performances at internationally renowned venues such as NYU Abu Dhabi, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, as well as its collaborations with prominent artists and ensembles, have solidified its reputation as an organization that transcends both genre and classification. In 2024, O’Farrill and the ALJO performed at Town Hall alongside Brazilian instrumentalists Hamilton de Holanda, Yamandu Costa and the legendary Cyro Baptista. Later that summer, the smaller ensemble served as the house band for WNYC’s Centennial Broadcast, which also featured mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges and Tony Award-winner Sarah Jones. In recent years, O’Farrill and the ALJO have also built creative alliances with distinguished choreographers and dance companies, including Alvin Ailey, Ballet Hispanico, Ronald K. Brown and Malpaso Dance Company. In 2024, O’Farrill scored Arielle Smith’s *Carmen*, which was given its world premiere by the San Francisco Ballet.

O’Farrill’s compositions reflect his deep engagement with both his heritage and contemporary issues. In 2006, O’Farrill worked alongside esteemed composer Tania León on *Tabla Raza*, a Hispanic suite debuted at Latin Fiesta’s Second Annual Hispanic Music Festival. In 2019, The Greene Space, WNYC Radio’s state-of-the-art performance venue, named O’Farrill as their Artist-in-Residence. Over the course of four months, O’Farrill curated “Radical Acts and Musical Deviancy,” a concert

series that showcased original works, and a commissioned world premier, alongside pieces that explore the shared musical heritages of Afro Cuban music and music from the Gulf, Middle East, and North Africa. In 2021, O’Farrill and the ALJO gave the world premiere of *Four Questions*, written in tribute to Dr. Cornel West, who joined the orchestra for the performance. O’Farrill has received commissions from Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Philadelphia Music Project, The Apollo Theater, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the Young Peoples Chorus of New York, the New York State Council on the Arts, among others.

In 2007, O’Farrill founded the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance (now known as *Belongó*), a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, promoting and expanding the reach of Afro Latin jazz. Through *Belongó*’s initiatives, O’Farrill continues to promote inclusivity while addressing issues such as immigration reform, racial inequality and the rights of marginalized communities, particularly within the Latin communities. In 2008, O’Farrill took up residency as an assistant professor at State University of New York at Purchase. In 2014, he was named Director of Jazz Ensembles at Brooklyn College’s Conservatory of Music, where he developed a unique curriculum exploring experimental genres influenced by cultures from around the world. In 2019 he was appointed at the UCLA Herb Albert School of Music, where he served as Distinguished Professor of Global Jazz Studies and Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and was recently named the Bill Evans Fellow at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. In September 2024, O’Farrill and *Belongó* announced the launch of a capital campaign for Casa *Belongó*, an East Harlem musical community center a brick-and-mortar oasis meant to foster community engagement across Greater Harlem, the Upper East Side and beyond.

Over the course of his extensive recording career, O’Farrill has received six Grammy Awards, two Latin Grammy awards and numerous nominations. In 2023, O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra won the Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album for their live recording, *Fandango at the Wall in New York* with The Conga Patria Son Jarocho Collective. *Four Questions*, recorded by O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra featuring Dr. Cornel West, also won the Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album in 2021. O’Farrill’s partnership with the ALJO has yielded several acclaimed projects, including *Song for Chico*, *Final Night at Birdland*, *The Offense of the Drum*, *Three Revolutions* and more. In 2024, O’Farrill released *Mundoagua: Celebrating Carla Bley* with the ALJO to wide praise, with *The Wall Street Journal* calling the title track “a masterwork” and NPR Alt.Latino claiming “O’Farrill and [the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra] can do no wrong.” O’Farrill has also appeared

as a sideman on various recordings with his mentor Carla Bley, Papo Vazquez, and Chico O'Farrill, among others.

Born in Mexico City and raised in New York City, O'Farrill's musical journey is deeply rooted in a legacy of innovation and cultural fusion. His father, Chico O'Farrill, was an influential composer, arranger, and conductor who played a crucial role in integrating Afro-Cuban rhythms into jazz during the 1940s and 1950s. O'Farrill pursued formal education at the Manhattan School of Music and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, where he focused on jazz theory and composition. In the 1980s, he joined the Carla Bley Big Band, before going on to collaborate with Dizzy Gillespie, Harry Belafonte, Lester Bowie, Steve Turre, and more, further solidifying his reputation as a versatile player and adept arranger. In 1995, he was named pianist and music director of the Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, an ensemble he would go on to lead following his father's death in 2001. O'Farrill is based in Brooklyn where he lives with his wife, classical pianist Alison Deane. Their sons, Zack and Adam, are also musicians and frequent collaborators.



Photo by Fadi Kheir

DESIGN FOR SHARING (DFS)

Each year, Design for Sharing (DFS) brings thousands of K-12 public school students from across Los Angeles to CAP UCLA venues for free performances and interactive workshops with professional artists.

DFS programs are open to any public school in greater Los Angeles, and are always free to attend.

cap.ucla.edu/dfs



**CAP
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Joy Guidry **Opening set by Colloboh**

Sat, Oct 4, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Presented in partnership with Living Earth

Joy Guidry's new album, *Five Prayers*, is an intuitive convergence of sound, spirit and radical self-expression. In the live performance, Guidry pairs the bassoon with low rumbling synths, warm electronic sounds and poetry that reflects the artist's lived experience as a Black trans woman from the South.

"Joy Guidry's work has a cathartic power to it that condenses into heavy, affecting passages that spill into the air from every direction." – *Foxy Digitalis*

cap.ucla.edu/joy-guidry



UCLA NIMOY THEATER

CAP UCLA has a new home for live performance
in Westwood!

Located near the UCLA campus on Westwood Boulevard,
The Nimoy is a reimagining of the historic Crest Theatre as a
flexible, state-of-the-art performance space.

This dynamic and intimately scaled venue immerses
audiences in a profoundly engaging experience of live
performance — while providing contemporary performing
artists from Los Angeles and around the world expanded
opportunities to develop and present new work.

cap.ucla.edu/nimoy





Lucía

Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Breakout 24-year-old jazz songstress Lucía, known for her collaborations with Natalia Lafourcade and Aloe Blacc, strikes out on her own with a self-titled album that is a perfect union of her Latin folk roots and American jazz influences.

cap.ucla.edu/lucia

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance acknowledge the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and South Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Ancestors (Honuukvetam), Elders (Ahihirom), and relatives/relations (Eyoohinkem) past, present and emerging.

There is no room for racism, intolerance, or inequity.

Anywhere

Not on our stages, in our offices, on our loading docks, in the box office lines, or on the dance floor.

With anyone

Not with our staff, crew, artists, volunteers, ushers, audiences or fans.

We uphold and embrace principles of antiracism, equity, diversity and **AUTHENTIC** inclusion as integral to our mission.

We must **EMPOWER** the historically underrepresented.

We must **UPLIFT** excluded voices.

We must **RESIST** structural racism.

We will **COMMIT** fiercely to our responsibility to observe, absorb, consider, contemplate, endure, share and engage in this change.

We **STAND AGAINST** all forms of discrimination.

We will **STRIVE** to make our organization more equitable and inclusive.

As part of UCLA's School of Art & Architecture (SOAA), we — UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) and Theater Management Services (TMS) — are committed to connecting and creating space for the arts and for all communities.

We acknowledge our organizations' histories as being predominantly white institutions. We are facing uncomfortable truths about systemic racism as we work to make the deep changes necessary to transform the organizational dynamics in our work culture and business practices and dismantle existing oppressive structures. We know there will be shortcomings, which we will face head on. We commit to continually addressing and adapting to changes as they arise. It is only in an improved, supportive work environment that everyone can be fully present, and respected as their true authentic selves.

This statement was drafted by a committee of staff members from both the Center for the Art of Performance and Theater Management Services, from a variety of backgrounds, viewpoints and perspectives.

Together we stand with UCLA's School of Art and Architecture's EDI statement.



CAP UCLA COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

CAP UCLA Executive Producer Council

The Executive Producer Council is CAP UCLA's philanthropic leadership group, which develops and contributes resources vital to CAP UCLA's programming and mission. The Council champions the creative development and presentation of live programs and public dialogue with contemporary performing artists by providing direct support for CAP UCLA's annual programming. The Council is engaged in dialogue about the artistic and curatorial practices that inform annual programs, long-term initiatives and collaborative planning efforts which stand at the heart of CAP UCLA's mission and public purpose.

Design for Sharing (DFS) Council

The Design for Sharing Council is a group of dedicated supporters whose efforts help to resource the K-12 arts education programs of DFS.

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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

CAP UCLA gratefully acknowledges our donors, sponsors and members.

This list reflects donations and commitments to the UCLA Nimoy Theater campaign as well as annual gifts made from Jan 1, 2024 to Aug 31, 2025.

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Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity. We gratefully acknowledge:

Barbara and Bruce Dobkin, James A. Doolittle, Arthur E. Guedel, Kevin Jeske, Henry and Ginny Mancini, Merle & Peter Mullin, José Luis Nazar, Evelyn & Mo Ostin, Beatrix F. Padway, Mimi Perloff, Lloyd E. Rigler, Sally & William A. Rutter, Shirley & Ralph Shapiro, Roslyn Holt Swartz & Allan J. Swartz, and Mimi & Werner Wolfen.

NAME YOUR SEAT

The opening of The Nimoy offers donors a rare opportunity to create a lasting legacy while celebrating their passion for contemporary performing arts at UCLA. Learn more about naming a seat in The Nimoy — CAP UCLA's newest home for live performance — and other opportunities to become a part of this state-of-the-art theater.

cap.ucla.edu/give-nimoy



BECOME A CAP UCLA MEMBER

Membership is an invitation — to be closer to the creative process, to champion new ideas and to help the arts thrive.

Members receive priority access, ticket benefits and invitations to special gatherings that deepen the experience of our shared journey.

Join today at cap.ucla.edu/membership

