



ARTURO O'FARRILL

THE AFRO LATIN JAZZ ORCHESTRA

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERES

THURSDAY, **APRIL 13** @ 7:30 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be an intermission.

This performance is part of the ListenHear Series, with support provided by The Presser Foundation.

PROGRAM NOTES

Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra (ALJO) honor the work of the great composer Chico O’Farrill during his 100th anniversary year. It is also the 15th anniversary of the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance and the 20th anniversary of the ALJO. With his Orchestra, O’Farrill performs original music of his father’s as well as his own compositions, including the *Afro Cuban Jazz Suite*, the *Afro Latin Jazz Suite* and several other pieces.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Born in Mexico and raised in New York, **Arturo O’Farrill’s** illustrious career as a pianist and composer is dedicated to the preservation of Afro-Cuban arts and culture, much like his father, Havana-born Chico O’Farrill. Deeply rooted in the traditions of Latin jazz, his visionary music is boundaryless and never easily categorized, for it is perpetually forward-looking with a global perspective. In 2007, he founded the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the performance, education and preservation of Afro Latin music.

O’Farrill’s well-reviewed and highly praised *Afro-Latin Jazz Suite* from the album *CUBA: The Conversation Continues* (Motéma) took the 2016 Grammy® Award for Best Instrumental Composition as well as the 2016 Latin Grammy® for Best Latin Jazz Recording. In addition, his composition *Three Revolutions* from the album *Familia-Tribute to Chico and Bebo* also received the Best Instrumental Composition Grammy® Award in 2018. O’Farrill and the ALJO’s 2020 release, *Four Questions*, featuring Dr. Cornel West, won yet another Grammy® Award in 2021, and the two most recent albums, *Virtual Birdland* and *Dreaming in Lions* both received Grammy® Award nominations.

Led by O’Farrill, the multi-Grammy® Award-winning **Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra** blends the drama of big band jazz, the culture of Latin music and the virtuosity of 18 of the world’s most accomplished musicians. Two decades of critically acclaimed live performances across the world have established the ALJO as a standard-bearer of big band Latin jazz.

Their innovative repertoire pushes the genre into the future, reflecting O’Farrill’s dual sensibilities of contemporary and improvisational jazz honed by his work with legends of the genre such as Carla Bley, Lester Bowie and Dizzy Gillespie, and with the Latin Jazz traditions pioneered by his father, the legendary Chico O’Farrill. ALJO has collaborated with and performed the compositions of noted artists including Randy Weston, Vijay Iyer, Antonio Sánchez, Miguel Zenón, Dafnis Prieto, Letieres Leite, Lionel Loueke, Carla Bley and many others.