

Celebrity Series is now VIVO PERFORMING ARTS

SAT MAY 2 3PM
ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH

Vivo Performing Arts presents a
Neighborhood Arts concert

ZAHILI ZAMORA & FRIENDS

ZAHILI ZAMORA PIANO
YOSVANY TERRY SAXOPHONE
GERSON LAZO-QUIROGA ELECTRIC BASS
YANDY GARCIA PALACIO DRUMS
KEISEL JIMENEZ PERCUSSION

Selections will be announced from stage and will include the following:

Blissful Sorrow

Rumination

Choice

Despair

Ancestral Memories

Drume Negrita

Negra

Puerto Padre

All works by Zahili Gonzalez Zamora

There will be no intermission in this afternoon's program, which will run 60-75 minutes.

2025/26 Season Sponsors

Crescendo Donor Advised Fund and The Thonis Family

Neighborhood Arts is supported by the Klarman Family Foundation, Liberty Mutual Foundation, Susanne Marcus Collins Foundation, Schrafft Charitable Trust, and other generous supporters.

Vivo Performing Arts is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ZAHILI ZAMORA

PIANO

Zahili Gonzalez Zamora is a pianist, composer, bandleader, arranger, and educator. Born in Manzanillo, Cuba, she started playing piano at age six and graduated from the National School of Music with a performance degree. Now, she feels most defined by her Cuban heritage and her status as an immigrant.

Her passion for music has taken her to Canada, to South East Asia and, now, to the United States—a land of immigrants. She is always moving forward, guided and driven by her music and the need to grow as an artist and a person, to share her music and her love of life with others.

She's an artist who's out of her comfort zone—her home—for the sake of her work. Her rich musical background, career experience, and extraordinary improvisation skills render her as not only a leader in the modern Latin jazz idiom but also an influential, emulated musician.

YOSVANY TERRY

SAXOPHONE

Since his arrival in New York in 1999, Cuban saxophonist / percussionist / composer Yosvany Terry has been making a difference in contemporary music. His innovative work, a unique confluence of Cuban roots music and jazz, “has helped redefine Latin jazz as a complex new idiom. (*New York Times*)

Born into a musical family in Camaguey, Cuba, Yosvany went on to classical music training in Havana at the prestigious National School of Arts (ENA) and Amadeo Roldan Conservatory. After graduating, Yosvany worked with major figures in every realm of Cuban music including pianists Chucho Valdés and Frank Emilio and the celebrated [nueva trova](#) singer / guitarist Silvio Rodriguez. From his earliest days in New York, Yosvany has been welcomed by a broad range of artists in the jazz and contemporary music community, playing with Steve Coleman, Rufus Reid, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Roy Hargrove, Vijay Iyer, Jeff “Tain” Watts, Avishai Cohen, Baptiste Trotignon, Eddie Palmieri, and Gerald Clayton.

Yosvany has continued his music education in New York; he studied composition, orchestration, and counterpoint with Leo Edward and Rudolph Palmer. Yosvany has received a number of commissions as well as grants to support both his performance and composition work. He is a recipient of the

prestigious Doris Duke Artist Award, class of 2015. His *New Throned King* album received a Grammy nomination for “Best Latin Jazz Album.” A key aspect of his work is educating the next generation of musicians both here and in Cuba. He has taught at prestigious institutions across the United States and Canada. He regularly visits his alma maters in Cuba to give workshops and master classes. In 2015, Yosvany joined the full-time faculty at Harvard University as Senior Lecturer and Director of Jazz Ensembles in the Department of Music.

GERSON LAZO-QUIROGA

ELECTRIC BASS

Gerson Lazo-Quiroga was born in Concepción, Chile. At the age of five, he began learning to play guitar from his father. A few years later, his interest shifted to the electric bass, and he decided to pursue it as his lifelong career. In 2014, he was awarded the Presidential Scholarship at Berklee College of Music, where he studied Music Production & Engineering, Performance, and Jazz Composition.

Gerson has performed at several notable festivals, including the Montreal Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, Beantown Jazz Festival with Al Jarreau, Panama Jazz Festival alongside Michelle Coltrane, and the National Folk Festival, among others. He also performed in the *Pablo Ziegler Meets Berklee* concert, featuring the Latin Grammy Award–winning pianist and composer Pablo Ziegler. In 2017, Gerson and his group Mixcla were awarded the 40th *DownBeat* Student Music Award, recognizing them as one of the most promising rising Latin bands.

In November 2017, Gerson was invited to arrange and perform for Berklee’s Signature Series, presenting a musical celebration of Toninho Horta, a foundational figure in Brazilian popular music, featuring Horta himself. In October 2018, he participated in a tribute to the music of Paquito D’Rivera and Berta Rojas, performing alongside both artists.

Gerson has worked as a musician and producer with Mixcla (a two-time Boston Music Award nominee for International Artist of the Year), Terri Lyne Carrington, Jorge Luis Pacheco, Billy Childs, Osain Del Monte, Leo Blanco, Regina Carter, Dianne Reeves, and Sean Jones, among others.

A Ravinia Music Institute alumnus, he has received several honors, including the Millican Composition Award and the 43rd *DownBeat* Student Award for Engineered Studio Recording. His recent collaboration contributed to a project archived in the Library of Congress and earned a Grammy Award for *New Standards, Vol. 1* at the 65th Annual Grammy Awards in the Best Instrumental Jazz Album category, alongside NEA Jazz Master Terri Lyne Carrington.

KEISEL JIMÉNEZ

PERCUSSION

Keisel Jiménez Leyva is an extremely versatile drummer and percussionist specializing in timbal, congas, and drum set. Born in 1983 in Camagüey, Cuba, Jiménez worked as a session musician as well as live performer and is especially known for his work with Alexander Abreu y Havana D'Primera, Isaac Delgado, and Alain Perez.

Jiménez Leyva earned his master's degree in classical percussion at the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) in Cuba. During his education, he had the opportunity to tour the world as a drummer with the legendary orchestra Orlando Valle Maraca, performing at festivals and renowned venues in Canada, France, The Netherlands, and Morocco.

Throughout his career Jiménez has studied a broad range of percussion with diverse teachers in Cuba such as Antonio Liza, Carlito Fuentes, Diomer González, Roberto Consepccion Rubi, Abdel Rivera, Luis Cantero, Damaris, Gretchen Pineda, and Eugenio Silva.

After graduation, he taught percussion at Institute of Superior Art (ISA) as well as at the National School of Arts in Havana and became one of the most in-demand percussionists in Cuba. His discography includes more than 50 albums and spans all genres.

In December 2015, Jiménez moved to New York. His goal has been to broaden his musical horizons and implement his experience, knowledge, and perspective into the Latin music scene. Over the last few years, he performed with artists such as the great Ellis Marsalis, David Murray, and Lionel Loueke, among others. Since 2017, he has also been an integral member of Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra and has regularly performed at renowned venues nationally and internationally such as the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and the Elbe Philharmonic Hall in Hamburg, Germany. As a fixed member of Arturo O'Farrill's Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, he was part of *Fandango at the Wall*, which won the Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album in 2023.

He also regularly performs with renowned artists such as Pedrito Martinez, Jon Batiste, or Jorge Luis Pacheco.