

PHOTO BY LAURA MARIET



**ARTURO O'FARRILL AND THE AFRO LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

Saturday, January 19, 2019, at 7:30pm  
Tryon Festival Theatre

---

# PROGRAM

## ARTURO O'FARRILL AND THE AFRO LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Arturo O'Farrill, leader and piano  
Chad Lefkowitz-Brown, saxophone  
Jim Seeley, trumpet  
Rafi Malkiel, trombone  
Jose "Bambam" Rodriguez, bass  
Vince Cherico, drums  
Keisel Jimenez, percussion  
Carlos "Carly" Maldonado, percussion

The evening's selections will be announced from the stage.

*There will be a 20-minute intermission.*

---

Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble appear by arrangement with:

Unlimited Myles  
6 Imaginary Place  
Aberdeen, NJ 07747  
732.566.2880

**THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THIS PERFORMANCE**

With deep gratitude, Krannert Center thanks all 2018-19 Patron Sponsors and Corporate and Community Sponsors, and all those who have invested in Krannert Center. Please view their names later in this program and join us in thanking them for their support.

This event is supported by:



**DEBRA & TY NEWELL**  
First-Time Sponsors



**JULIA & GENE ROBINSON**  
Three Previous Sponsorships



**ANONYMOUS**  
One Hundred and Five Previous  
Sponsorships  
Ten Current Sponsorships

---

**HELP SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS. BECOME A KRANNERT CENTER SPONSOR BY CONTACTING OUR ADVANCEMENT TEAM TODAY:**

KrannertCenter.com/Give • [development@krannertcenter.illinois.edu](mailto:development@krannertcenter.illinois.edu) • 217.333.1629

---

# PROFILES

**ARTURO O'FARRILL**, pianist, composer, educator, and founder and artistic director of the nonprofit Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, was born in Mexico and grew up in New York City. His debut album with the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, *Una Noche Inolvidable*, earned a first Grammy Award nomination in 2006. His next album *Song for Chico* earned a Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album in 2009. The 2015 release of *The Offense of the Drum* was yet another Grammy Award winner. In addition, O'Farrill was the winner of the Latin Jazz USA Outstanding Achievement Award and a Cubadisco Award for *The Offense of the Drum* in 2015. His acclaimed album *Cuba: The Conversation Continues* (on the Motéma label) took the 2016 Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album. His "Three Revolutions" from the album *Familia—Tribute to Chico and Bebo* was the 2018 Grammy Award winner for Best Instrumental Composition.

O'Farrill received his formal musical education at the Manhattan School of Music, and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. As his professional career began to expand, O'Farrill was the pianist with the Carla Bley Big Band from 1979 through 1983. He then went on to develop as a solo performer with a wide spectrum of artists including Dizzy Gillespie, Steve Turre, Freddy Cole, The Fort Apache Band, Lester Bowie, Wynton Marsalis, and Harry Belafonte.

In 1995, O'Farrill agreed to direct the band that preserved much of his father's music, the Chico O'Farrill Afro Cuban Jazz Orchestra. In December 2010, O'Farrill traveled with the original orchestra to Cuba, returning his father's musicians to his homeland for headlining performances at the 26th edition of the Havana International Jazz Festival. Currently, O'Farrill's Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra continues the tradition every Sunday night at Birdland in New York City, which has for decades been one of the most popular jazz clubs in the United States. O'Farrill now performs throughout the world as a solo artist as well as with his orchestra and smaller ensembles.

As an educator, O'Farrill has taught masterclasses, seminars, and workshops throughout the world for students and teachers of all levels. From 2007 to 2008, he was assistant professor of jazz at The University of Massachusetts in Amherst, and from 2008 to 2010, he served as assistant professor at the State University of New York at Purchase.

Over the past several years, O'Farrill has toured the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. During this period, 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 has performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, DC); Boston Symphony Hall; the Newport Jazz Festival; The Joyce Theater with Ballet Hispanico (New York City); Megaron Concert Hall (Athens, Greece); Kannai Hall (Yokohama, Japan); the Taichung Jazz Festival (Taichung, Taiwan); and at New York's Symphony Space where he and his Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra have been in residence since 2007.

A recognized composer, O'Farrill has received commissions from Meet the Composer, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Philadelphia Music Project, Symphony Space, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the famous Apollo Theater. He has also composed music for films, including *Hollywoodland* and *Salud*.

The Grammy Award-winning Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra (ALJO) brings together the drama of big band jazz, the culture of Latin music, and the virtuosity of 18 of the world's most accomplished solo musicians. Twelve years of critically acclaimed performances internationally that range from the very best in dance music to repertoire that pushes the genre forward have firmly established the ALJO as the standard-bearer for creative interpretation of Latin jazz

greats such as Tito Puente, Frank "Machito" Grillo, and Chico O'Farrill, as well as the driving force behind new commissions from Latin music's most talented composers and arrangers such as Vijay Iyer, Miguel Zenón, Dafnis Prieto, Guillermo Klein, Pablo Mayor, Arturo O'Farrill, Michele Rosewoman, Emilio Solla, Papo Vazquez, and many others.

The **AFRO LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE** (ALJE) is an octet subset of the orchestra, made up of some of the most virtuosic musicians in jazz today. Their repertoire honors the pioneers of Latin jazz, such as Mario Bauza and Tito Puente, while keeping a strong foothold in progressing that music by performing contemporary compositions of the genre. Recently, the ALJE has teamed up with the Malpaso Dance Company from Havana, Cuba, creating two programs—*Despedida* and *24 Hours in the Life of a Dog*—in which Arturo O'Farrill scored the music in collaboration with Osnel Delgado, who choreographed the piece. The ALJE has performed internationally to critical acclaim, playing such festivals as the Cubadisco Festival (Havana, Cuba); the Luminato Festival (Toronto, Ontario, Canada); *Aperitivo in Concerto* (Milan, Italy); the EFG London Jazz Festival; and the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (Becket, Massachusetts).