



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

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Press Contacts:

[Dana Navarro](#)

312-294-3090

Photos available upon request

PR@CSO.org

[Eileen Chambers](#)

312-294-3092

THE PAQUITO D'RIVERA QUINTET MAKES SYMPHONY CENTER DEBUT IN SCP JAZZ SERIES CONCERT

Duo of Masterful Cuban Instrumentalists Alfredo Rodríguez and Pedrito Martínez Open the Program

Friday, March 8, at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO—The 25th season of the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series continues on [Friday, March 8, at 8 p.m.](#), with the Symphony Center debut of 14-time Grammy Award-winning clarinetist and saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera and his quintet. Cuban pianist and composer Alfredo Rodríguez joins acclaimed Cuban percussionist Pedrito Martínez to open the program.

Cuban clarinetist and saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera effortlessly moves among jazz, classical and Cuban traditions and intertwines elements from each to bring joyous, innovative music that is distinctly his own. Though D'Rivera's name is prominently associated with the Afro-Cuban jazz supergroup Irakere, he has gone on to lead many successful groups of his own, bringing his distinctive brand of classical-streaked Latin jazz to audiences around the world. In their first appearance together at Symphony Center, D'Rivera's quintet—which includes Peruvian bassist Oscar Stagnaro, Argentinean trumpeter and trombonist Diego Urcola, American drummer Mark Walker and American pianist Alex Brown—performs highlights from their Grammy Award-winning 2014 album, as well as a variety of beloved compositions from throughout D'Rivera's 50-plus-year career.

The unique, collaborative sound of the Alfredo Rodríguez and Pedrito Martínez Duo combines Rodríguez's classical and jazz schooling with Martínez's musical roots in the Cayo Hueso neighborhood of Old Havana, where he grew up. They first joined forces in Rodríguez's 2014 release *Invasión Parade*, co-produced by Quincy Jones, which explored Rodríguez's memories of Cuba. Since that first recording, the pair of have explored this collaboration further with the

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

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YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

release of their album *Duologue* on Mack Avenue Records earlier this month. The pared-down instrumentation allows each musician's virtuosity to shine, with Martinez adding earthy vocals to his propulsive drumming and Rodríguez filling out the orchestration with shimmering, virtuosic solos and grooving montuno rhythms. Their repertoire includes original tunes firmly planted in the jazz and Afro-Cuban traditions, as well as funky, playful takes on Michael Jackson hits and video game themes.

Fourteen-time Grammy Award-winning clarinetist and composer Paquito D'Rivera is the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards in both Classical and Latin categories from his discography of more than 40 albums. After he graduated from the Havana Conservatory of Music in 1960, he was a featured soloist with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra and later appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony and others. D'Rivera's work has been commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Library of Congress and the Grant Park Music Festival. He was a founding member of Irakere and later went on to lead the Paquito D'Rivera Quintet. D'Rivera has been recognized with a number of awards including the NEA Jazz Masters Award in 2005 and the National Medal of the Arts in 2005. He serves as Artistic Director of the Festival Internacional de Jazz de Punta Del Este in Uruguay.

Cuban artist, pianist and composer Alfredo Rodríguez has received global recognition as a Grammy-nominee with four critically acclaimed releases on Mack Avenue Records including his most recent, *The Little Dream* (2018). Rodríguez trained as a classical pianist in Havana at the Manuel Saumell Conservatory, the Amadeo Roldán Music Conservatory and the Instituto Superior de Arte. Rodríguez stepped onto the global stage after earning the attention of music producer Quincy Jones at the 2006 Montreux Jazz Festival, and he has gone on to perform at international festivals and collaborate with artists such as Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Esperanza Spalding and Lionel Loueke.

Cuban-born percussionist and vocalist Pedrito Martinez has collaborated with esteemed artists including Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Paquito D'Rivera and Bruce Springsteen. Soon after moving to New York City from Havana, Cuba, in 1998, he received the Thelonious Monk Award for Afro-Latin Hand Percussion. In 2005, he formed the Pedrito Martinez Group, which received a Grammy nomination and praise from NPR and *The Boston Globe* for their self-titled debut album in 2013. In 2016, the group released its second album, *Habana Dreams*, which included guest artists Rubén Blades, Wynton Marsalis and Telmary Diaz. Recorded in the historic Egreem Studio in Havana, the album was named #1 Latin Jazz Album in NPR's Top Jazz Albums for 2016 and was among the *Boston Globe's* Best World Music Albums of 2016.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Jazz series concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114** or **312-294-3000**, online at cso.org or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Symphony Center Presents
Jazz**

[Friday, March 8, 8:00 p.m.](#)

Paquito D’Rivera Quintet

Paquito D’Rivera, clarinet and saxophone
Diego Urcola, trumpet and valve trombone
Alex Brown, piano
Oscar Stagnaro, bass
Mark Walker, drums

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Alfredo Rodríguez & Pedrito Martinez Duo

Alfredo Rodríguez, piano
Pedrito Martinez, drums

Tickets: \$28-\$89

Featured Artist for this Performance:

[Paquito D’Rivera](#)

[Alfredo Rodríguez](#)

[Pedrito Martinez](#)

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence and Erina Yashima is the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 60 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at cso.org/radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti’s recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi’s *Messa da Requiem* (Muti’s first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at www.cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.