

PAN-AMERICAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Fran Vielma,* director

Josanne Francis, guest artist and steelpan performer



Tuesday, April 26, 2022 · 7:30 pm
Joe Byrd Hall

Program order to be announced from the stage

Hermeto Pascual

Adapted by Miranda Towler

Bebe

(Afro-Brazilian Baião)

Pablo Flores

Adapted by Luis Ozoria

Sabores del Porro (Claudia Gómez version)

(Afro-Colombian Porro)

Andrés Soto (Susana Baca version)

Adapted by Trevor Johnson

Negra Presuntuosa

(Afro-Peruvian Landó)

Fran Vielma

Pensamiento

(Afro-Cuban Son Montuno)

Luis Fragachán

Arranged by Fran Vielma

El Norte Es Una Quimera

(Venezuelan Merengue)

Josanne Francis

Pragati

(Hindustani and Afro-Caribbean)

Kassav / Nailah Blackman

Arranged by Josanne Francis

Zouk-la Sé Sel Médikaman Nou Ni/ More Sokah

(Afro-Caribbean Zouk and Soca)

Michel Camilo

Adapted by Josanne Francis

Why Not?

(Afro-Caribbean Calypso)

PAN-AMERICAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Fran Vielma, director
Luis Ozoria, music editor

Saxophone

Laurel Fink, tenor saxophone
Isamu Ishimaru-García, tenor saxophone
Will Warick, baritone and soprano saxophone

Trumpet

Trevor Johnson
Luis Ozoria
Keller Remington
Miranda Towler
Kevin Tzanetis

Trombone

August Braatz

Guitar

Nico Wohl

Bass

Aidan Taylor

Piano

Indra Carpio-Pretel
Julian Quall
Leo Zurita

Drums and Percussion

Noah Ford
Matt Lucas

BIOGRAPHIES

Fran Vielma

Fran Vielma, born in Venezuela, is a critically acclaimed and award-winning multi-percussionist, composer, and educator. His extensive knowledge of rhythms from the Caribbean, Venezuela, South America, and beyond is integrated with his attraction to concert music and the freedom of jazz.

Vielma was awarded the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities 2020 Fellowship, and the Jazz Road Tour Grant 2019 by South Arts Foundation. His first album *Inesperado*, was part of a catalog for the label Cacao Music along with productions of international artists such as Horacio “El Negro” Hernandez, Jose Luis Quintana “Changuito,” and Negroni’s trio among others.

He has been on tour around the continent with his Venezuelan Jazz Collective since fall 2019. *Tendencias*, the debut album of the collective, includes Vielma’s original works and arrangements featuring some of the most important players of the jazz scene in the world such as Miguel Zenon, Michael Rodriguez, and Luis Perdomo. The album was included in the Best of 2018 lists by *Downbeat* (4 stars), *Latin Jazz Net* (4 stars), and *NYC Jazz Record*.

Vielma directs the Hidden Treasure Music Workshop with which he has conducted online talks and several hand-percussion, composition, and world music appreciation concert-lectures around the United States. Additionally, he was the producer of the I International Jazz Seminar at University of Andes, Venezuela in 2015.

As an active member of Cesar Orozco’s Kamarata Jazz, Vielma has recorded in the latest two productions. His versatility as a performer of different genres has involved him in concerts, recordings, tours, and festivals around the world with artist such as John Medeski, George Garzone, Paul Winter, Bob Moses, Simon Phillips, Antonio Sanchez, Marshall Gilkes, NEC Jazz Ambassadors, Army Blues Band, Eguie Castrillo, Eric Hangen – La Ruta, Josanne Francis, Luis Enrique, and Javier Limón to name a few.

He has been guest-speaker for the Jazz Seminar at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, adjunct faculty of World Music at Salem State University in Massachusetts, and artist resident at Florida University, Conservatorio de Music de Puerto Rico, Baltimore School of Arts, and Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra.

Fran Vielma holds an MM from New England Conservatory, and a BM from Berklee College of Music. He also studied composition at the Arts University of Venezuela.

Vielma endorses Meinl Percussion, Vater Drums Sticks, Istanbul Mehmet Cymbals, and Africatedra Venezuelan Percussion.

Josanne Francis

Born and raised in the twin-island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Josanne Francis is an internationally known steelpan performer and music educator. Her music delivers that special “extra” that separates her from even the greats, and catapults listeners into a unique and exceptional place.

With hands that seem to float like the wings of a butterfly with a “wand-like” touch, her music is not devoid of power when needed. Francis’ music blends together and draws influences from traditional Calypso music, Jazz, Indian, Funk, Rock, and Classical music — a unique mix which is not typical for the instrument.

Francis has performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and Strathmore Music Center; and has appeared as a guest artist at festivals and universities across the United States and internationally, including the San Juan Conservatory of Music, Puerto Rico, and the Port-au-Prince International Jazz Festival, Haiti.

Francis served as one of 6 Artists in Residence at Strathmore for the 2017–18 season. She currently runs her very own educational steelpan program Steel on Wheels.