

PAN-AMERICAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Fran Vielma,* director

Luis Perdomo, composer, arranger, piano



Wednesday, May 10, 2023 · 7:30 pm
Joe Byrd Hall

*Program order will be announced from the stage.
There will be a 15 minute intermission.*

Hermeto Pascoal (b. 1936)
arr. by Miranda Towler/Fran Vielma
Bebe

Luis Fragachán (1896–1960)
arr. by Fran Vielma
El Norte Es Una Quimera

Luis Perdomo (b. 1971)
arr. by Miranda Towler
Berimvela

Luis Perdomo
Unexpected

Luis Perdomo
San Millán

Juan Manuel “Meme” Solís Fernandez (b. 1939)
arr. Luis Perdomo
Ese Hastío

Luis Perdomo
Amani

Bobby Hutchinson (1941–2016)
arr. Luis Perdomo
Head Start

ENSEMBLE NAME

Fran Vielma, director

Double Bass

William Hazlehurst

Trumpet

Trevor Johnson
Keller Remington
Miranda Towler
Kevin Tzanetis

Trombone

Calvin Maholick

Saxophone

Ephraim Dorsey
Erick Garduno
Max Nguyen
John Rokicki
Thomas Schinabeck

Percussion

Noah Ford
Koleby Royston
Claudio Silva

Keyboard

Alex Navarrete
Rockwell Shapiro

Guitar

Brandon Born
Nicholas Wohl

BIOGRAPHIES

Luis Perdomo, composer, arranger, piano

Luis Perdomo has emerged as one of the most in-demand sidemen—as evidenced by his celebrated work with a wide array of jazz and Latin stars, from Ravi Coltrane to Ray Barretto, and by his six critically-acclaimed recordings as a leader. Born in 1971 in Caracas, Perdomo, from the age of 12, was playing on Venezuelan TV and radio stations, but he eventually realized that he would have to travel to New York City to fulfill his musical destiny. “Being in a more competitive and challenging environment was a big change that I welcomed,” he says.

In 1993, Perdomo relocated to New York and enrolled with a full scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Harold Danko and classical pianist Martha Pestalozzi, and earned his BA in 1997. Perdomo later studied with pianist extraordinaire Sir Roland Hanna at Queens College, and received his Masters Degree in 2000. Perdomo has appeared on over two hundred records, and has become a first-class sideman to artists like Dave Douglas, David Sanchez, Tom Harrell, Steve Turre, Ben Wolfe, Ray Barretto, Brian Lynch, David Gilmore, Conrad Herwig, Ignacio Berroa, Ralph Irizarry and Timbalaye and other great musicians. He was a member of Ravi Coltrane’s Quartet for ten years, and is a founding member of the Miguel Zenon Quartet. Perdomo recorded on three Grammy-nominated CD’s: Coltrane’s *Influx*, and Zenon’s *Esta Plena*, and *Alma Adentro: The Puerto Rican Songbook*.

Perdomo’s recordings as a leader include: *Focus Point* (2005), *Awareness* (2006), *Pathways* (2008), the critically-acclaimed *Universal Mind* (2012), with Jack DeJohnette and Drew Gress, *The Infancia Project* (2012) and *Links* (2013).

The release of his magnificent new, Hot Tone label debut CD, *22*, features bassist Mimi Jones’ supple, deep basslines and drummer Rudy Royston’s quicksilver rhythms. “2015 marks my twenty-second year living in New York City, and I left my hometown when I was twenty-two years old,” he says. “I remembered the exact moment when I moved, and the feelings I had had at the time...especially during the last two days in Caracas and the first two days in New York City. There again, I saw the two and two formula, and realized that there was a little recurring theme there. So I began scoring all of those memories and trying to convey them through music: translating some dates that were very significant to me into notes.”

Fran Vielma, director

Hailing from the Venezuelan Andes, Fran Vielma is a critically acclaimed and award-winning multi-percussionist, composer, and educator. His continuous research on the rhythms of America, and beyond, converges in his works with the fascination for concert music and the freedom of jazz.

He was awarded the New Jazz Works commission by the prestigious Chamber Music America in 2021 and has been a D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities fellow since 2019. Additionally, he was a Jazz Road Tours Grantee by South Arts in 2019. His album *Inesperado*, was part of a catalog for the label Cacao Music along with renown artists such as Horacio “El Negro” Hernandez, Jose Quintana “Changuito,” and Negroni’s trio, among others.

He has been on tour around the continent with his star-studded Venezuelan Jazz Collective since fall 2019. *Tendencias*, the debut album of the collective, includes Vielma’s original works and arrangements and features 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 recently created his Jazz Orchestra featuring world-class players of the Mid-Atlantic and East-Coast area and directs the Hidden Treasure Music Workshop that holds several hand-percussion, composition, and world music concert-lectures around the United States. Additionally, he was the producer of the International Jazz Seminar at University of Andes, Venezuela in 2015.

He serves on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University in Maryland and has been adjunct faculty of World Music at Salem State University in Massachusetts, as well as artist resident at University of Florida, Conservatorio de Music de Puerto Rico, Baltimore School of Arts, and Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra among others.