

TD Jazz Concerts

Hilario Durán and his Latin Jazz Big Band

with Horacio "El Negro" Hernández and Sarita Leyva's Rumberos

Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 8:00pm

Pre-concert Talk at 7:00pm

This is the 912th concert in Koerner Hall

Hilario Durán and his Latin Jazz Big Band

Hilario Durán, piano & Musical Director

Pol Coussée, saxophone

Allison Au, saxophone

Kelly Jefferson, saxophone

Jeff King, saxophone

Shirantha Beddage, saxophone

Alexis Baró, trumpet

Alexander Brown, trumpet

Kevin Turcotte, trumpet

Michael Herriot, trumpet

Phil Gray, trombone

Yordan Martínez, trombone

Christopher Butcher, trombone

Christian Overton, trombone

Jorge Luis Torres "Papiosco", percussion

Magdelis Savigne, percussion

Reimundo Sosa, percussion

Roberto Riverón, bass

Elizabeth Rodríguez, violin & vocals

Yosvani Castañeda, vocals

Sarita Leyva & Iré Omó Afro-Cuban Drum and Dance Ensemble

Sarita Leyva, dance

Orlando Cardoso, dance

Indira Rodríguez, dance

Pedro Jaure, dance

Luis Mario Ochoa, vocals & guitar

Horacio "El Negro" Hernández, drums

Hilario Durán

Virtuoso player, arranger, composer, and bandleader, Hilario Durán, is one of the most important contemporary Cuban pianists and, as Cuba's premier exponent of Latin jazz, is renowned for his piano playing and composing skills.

He was born into a musical family in Havana and, after graduating from Cuba's Amadeo Roldan Conservatory, he experienced the waning days of the glorious orchestras that drove musical innovation on the city's scene. In the 1970s, Hilario Durán was Chucho Valdés's chosen successor in Cuba's most modern big band, Orquesta Cubana de Música Moderna; years later, Durán joined trumpeter Arturo Sandoval's band for nine years, touring worldwide and performing with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Michel Legrand, among many others.

Durán is famed for his innovative take on contemporary Latin jazz and all Cuban styles. His formal music training, combined with a deep understanding of traditional Cuban music, as well as a love for jazz, allowed him to play a key role in the integration of Afro-Cuban music and jazz.

Recently, Durán has composed and arranged the film score for the movie *The Cuban*, directed by Sergio Navarreta, as well as the composition of "Ontario's Memories," a five-minute movement performed by the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra as part of the *World Premiere Suite*, created by Canadian composers to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Chucho Valdés has declared Hilario Durán to be one of the greatest Cuban pianists of the 20th century, calling the Grammy nominated and multi Juno Award winner "an unparalleled pianist, composer, and arranger of the first order."

Horacio "El Negro" Hernández

Special guest drummer Horacio "El Negro" Hernández, regarded as one of the most talented drummers in the world, is one of the few drummers that have done much to further the marriage of jazz, rock, and Cuban music. His contribution to music is immense, having recorded and performed with many bands and top class artists. This Grammy Award winner has performed with music greats such as McCoy Tyner, Michel Camilo, Carlos Santana, Stevie Winwood, and notable Latin American ensembles. Hernández is identified by his unique Latin fusion style, melding the folkloric clave with the fierce punch, crisp snap, and deep grooves of today's jazz, pop, and rock.

He has been a driving force behind some of the most popular and influential Latin and Latin-fused music of the past two decades and his impact extends beyond the stage and the studio.

Horacio "El Negro" holds an honorary Doctorate of Music degree from Boston's Berklee College of Music, joining the ranks of Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, William "Count" Basie, Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock, and other legends. A highly esteemed percussion educator, he also serves as a member of the faculties of Berklee and the New School and Drummer's Collective in New York.

What will emerge next from the innovative "El Negro" is certain to continue to astonish, as it continues to reveal his dedication to Cuban music that first fuelled his brilliant and unique contribution to the world of contemporary music.

Luis Mario Ochoa

Vocalist, guitarist, composer, arranger, and band leader, Luis Mario Ochoa, was born in Havana and his earliest musical influences came from his father, Luis Ochoa Sr., one of the founders of trio Voces de Oro. Ochoa began his musical studies at some of Havana's most prestigious conservatories, completing them in 1987, with a degree in classical guitar from the Instituto Superior de Artes.

Embracing Toronto as his new home in 1990, he soon formed his band Cimarrón, recording three critically acclaimed CDs. His first two – *A la Cubana* and *La Fiesta* – were some of the earliest recordings to emerge from Toronto's Latin music scene and tracks from these CDs were featured in film and television shows such as *Traders*, the US production *Brave New Girl*, and Canadian production *Bailey's Billions*, as well as in the TV series *The Associates*. His third CD, *Cimarrón*, includes an all-star cast of jazz and Latin musicians from Toronto as well as special guests Paquito D'Rivera, Guido Basso, and Luis's father.

With roots in Cuban popular music, Ochoa's emotive voice and delicate touch on a nylon-stringed guitar, exhibit a change from Latin jazz standards. He has been praised for his "... fire, finesse, and authenticity" (*Jazz Times*) and for creating "... high caliber Latin jazz [that] cooks" (*Descarg.com*).

Luis Ochoa has an exceptional voice. His soaring tenor rises above the horns and percussion, delivering the lyrics with sincerity and power.

Sarita Leyva

Sarita Leyva is a renowned folkloric and popular dancer, educator, and choreographer. She has trained and taught at the National Arts School in Havana as well as internationally, and is Toronto's most sought-out Cuban dance teacher, having established a solid roster of students over the past 16 years.

Iré Omó Afro-Cuban Drum and Dance Ensemble was founded in Toronto in May 2000 to promote the authentic Cuban dance and culture in the city. The ensemble is dedicated to researching and developing the traditions of Afro-Cuban music exploring all African music and dance traditions, namely Abakuá and Yuka, as well as the Spanish-based coros de Clave; this complex encompasses the three traditional forms of rumba: yambú, Guaguancó, and columbia.

Iré Omó's dancer and director Sarita Leyva perform all orishas in an exquisite choreography dancing, music, and songs of Afro-Cuban origin, such as yoruba, congo, arará, abakuá, Afro Haitian, and some other indigenous rhythms of the island to introduce audiences to the universe of gods, magic, and African-rooted rituals. Iré Omó also performs dances from the beginning of the 20th century such as danzón, cha-cha-cha, boleros, rumbas, and more.

In addition to her work as director of Iré Omó, Leyva also works as first dancer of the Iyá Iré Afro-Cuban ensemble, as well as a dance instructor in local venues of the city, and her busy schedule also includes a teaching position at York University.

Hilario Durán made his Royal Conservatory debut on April 17, 2010, and tonight marks his sixth appearance in Koerner Hall. Horacio "El Negro" Hernández, Luis Mario Ochoa, and Sarita Leyva are making their Koerner Hall debuts tonight.