

Saturday, January 29, 2012, 7pm  
Hertz Hall

## Alfredo Rodríguez Trio



Alfredo Rodríguez, *piano*

Peter Slavov, *bass*

Francisco Mela, *drums*

### PROGRAM

*Tonight's performance will be announced from the stage  
and feature two sets with one intermission.*

*Cal Performances' 2011–2012 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*

**B**ORN IN HAVANA, CUBA, pianist **Alfredo Rodríguez** trained at the famous Manuel Saumell Classical Music Conservatory, then at the Amadeo Roldan Music Conservatory and subsequently at the Instituto Superior de Arte. His lucky break came in 2006 when he was selected as one of twelve pianists from around the world to play at the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival. In Montreux, he struck a chord in legendary music producer Quincy Jones, who noticed Mr. Rodríguez's talent and decided to begin working with him. In January 2009, Mr. Rodríguez made the difficult decision to leave his family and country behind and pursue a career in music in the United States.

In his first two years since moving to the United States, Mr. Rodríguez has played to capacity crowds at the Playboy Jazz Festival at the Hollywood Bowl, the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, the Detroit Jazz Festival, the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Newport Jazz Festival and many others. In July 2010, Mr. Rodríguez undertook his first European tour with his Trio, playing at the 16th International Open Air (Poland), Jazz à Vienne (France), North Sea (Netherlands), Umbria (Italy) and Montreux jazz festivals and with the Quincy Jones Global Gumbo All Stars, a group featuring Richard Bona, Lionel Loueke, Paulinho da Costa, Francisco Mela and Nikki Yanofsky. He has built an enormous presence in China after co-writing, with Quincy Jones, the song "Better City, Better Life," which was chosen to be the Official Theme Song of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. He has since played to influential crowds at the 2010 Shanghai Film Festival and the 2010 Shanghai Tourist Festival.

Mr. Rodríguez's debut CD was released in early 2011 on Qwest Records, with influences from Bach, Beethoven and Stravinsky to Thelonious Monk, Bill Evans, Herbie Hancock and Quincy Jones being displayed prominently. In Mr. Rodríguez's words, "Everything I learn, in all aspects of my life, contributes to my music." In the words of Quincy Jones, "He is very special, and I do not say that easily because I have been surrounded by the best musicians in the world my entire life and he is one of the best."

Krzysztof Wojciechowski



Born in Helsinki, Finland, to the family of legendary Bulgarian drummer Peter Slavov Sr., **Peter Slavov** has been playing bass since the age of twelve. As a young man he traveled and toured extensively in Bulgaria and became well known for his jazz musicianship. In 1997, he received the Best Composition Award at the Plovdiv International Jazz Festival. In 1998, Mr. Slavov received a scholarship from the Berklee School of Music and in 1999 moved to Boston to attend the music conservatory. Since moving to the United States, Mr. Slavov has performed and recorded with the likes of Joe Lovano, Danilo Pérez, George Garzone, Kevin Mahogany and Simon Shaheen. He has performed at some of the most prestigious venues around the world, including the Monterey Jazz Festival, the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Umbria Jazz Festival, the Paris Jazz Festival, La Cigale in Paris, the MGM Grand in Las Vegas and the Blue Note in New York. Mr. Slavov has been featured on television and radio programs on CBC, PBS and TF1 (France), among many others. As the house bassist at historic Wally's Café in Boston, Mr. Slavov has accompanied the likes of Wynton Marsalis and Roy Hargrove. He now resides in New York City.

Krzysztof Wojciechowski



Born in 1968, in the small town of Bayamo, Cuba, drummer **Francisco Mela** was pointed towards music from a young age through the encouragement of his father. He fostered his love of jazz music and percussion after enrolling in the El Yare Music School in the small town of Bayamo. Eventually he moved on to the Cuban capital of Havana and later continued to his pursue his love of jazz music by moving to Boston, where he played at venues like Wally's Café, where he was featured as the house drummer. Through

his music, Mr. Mela became acquainted with various faculty members at the Berklee School of Music and he was eventually offered the opportunity to join the faculty at the music conservatory. He has enjoyed his position here, where he teaches a course Afro-Cuban and Brazilian percussion and provides private lessons for more than two dozen music students. After less than a decade as a drummer and a composer in the United States, Mr. Mela can be counted as one of the most illustrious Afro-Cuban musicians of his generation. He worked with musician Jane Burnett, who invited Mr. Mela to join her band Spirits of Havana, anchoring the rhythm section of her Grammy Award-nominated album *Cuban Odyssey* as an. His first solo album, entitled *Melao*, released on the Spanish-based record label AYVA Musica, features a cadre of jazz greats, including Joe Lovano, George Garzone, Lionel Louke and Peter Slavov.