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**AFTER A SIX-YEAR HIATUS, JUAN DE MARCOS AND HIS  
AFRO-CUBAN ALL STARS RETURN TO ZELLERBACH HALL**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**The Concert Is Part of Cal Performances' Latin Music Series and Includes a Talk Given by  
Jesse "Chuy" Varela Friday, February 25 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall**

**BERKELEY, January 14, 2009**—Bringing Cuba's spirited tempos and addictive sounds to the Bay Area, the **Afro-Cuban All Stars**, led by **Juan de Marcos González**, returns to Cal Performances **Wednesday, February 25 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Combining the best of three generations of outstanding Cuban musicians and singers, the 14-member ensemble will perform a veritable feast of Latin rhythms: classic *son montuno*, contemporary *timba*, swinging big-band *guajira*, Afro-Cuban jazz and funk, *bolero* and more. The group's electrifying performances pay tribute to the wealth, diversity and vitality of Cuban music. "The music was a delight...every chorus exhibits its own twists and turns on the melody...the way the All Stars' singers toyed with the underlying beat in their phrasing, and the instrumentalists unfurled their forceful and quirky virtuosity, made the music spring to life." (*The Guardian*, London)

This concert is part of Cal Performances Latin Music Series and will include a talk by jazz radio host and Latin music specialist **Jesse "Chuy" Varela** on Wednesday, February 25 at 5:00 p.m. in the lobby mezzanine at Zellerbach Hall. This is the third of the four lecture series to be given by Varela this season. The talks include background information, guest interviews and musical illustration to complement the performance. (The final lecture will compliment jazz greats Chick Corea and John McLaughlin's Five Peace Band concert on March 21.) These events are free and open to the public but tickets must be purchased to attend the concerts.

Musical director, guitarist and *tres* (a stringed instrument) player González is a central figure in Cuban music today and has made it a personal mission to show the world the wealth,

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diversity and vitality of Cuban music. His work with the Afro-Cuban All Stars, the Buena Vista Social Club, Ruben Gonzalez, Ibrahim Ferrer, Sierra Maestra and others, has made an extraordinary contribution to raising the profile of Cuban music throughout the world. As the unsung hero of the Buena Vista Social Club, Gonzalez takes center stage with his Afro-Cuban All Stars. His approach has allowed him to expand its creative range by incorporating contemporary styles of Cuban music.

Although the group was founded in the early 1990s, the magic of the ensemble was first captured on 1997's *A Today Cuba Le Gusta* (World Circuit/Nonesuch Records), which received a Grammy Award nomination. Their 1999 follow-up recording *Distinto, Diferente* utilizes the group's trademark big-band format, applying it to a broader scope of both traditional and contemporary Cuban music. In 2002, González founded his own independent label, DM Ahora! Records, which released Afro-Cuban All Stars' albums *Live in Japan* and *Step Forward* (which was Grammy nominated in 2006). He also released *A Diario* (Telmary) and *Goza Pepillo* (Interactivo), projects that represent a new generation of Cuban music, one that fuses hip-hop with contemporary Cuban genres. Most recently, González, along with his wife Gliceria Abreu, has founded GG and LL, a musical production company based in Mexico City that aims to create a space for the new Latin American Music, especially that interpreted by songwriters.

In addition to González, many of the Afro-Cuban All Stars' musicians have built international careers, including **Alberto Munoz Martinez** (trombone); **Evelio Galan Castellanos** (singer); **Ivan Gonzalez Lewis** (piano and keyboards); **Jose Gil Pinera Leygoniel** (singer); and **Yaure Muniz Rumayor** (trumpet).

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Afro-Cuban All Stars** on **Wednesday, February 25** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00, \$34.00** and **\$46.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC

Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Wednesday, February 25 from 5–6:30 p.m.**  
**LATIN MUSIC SERIES**

**Zellerbach Hall Lobby Mezzanine**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

A talk about Afro-Cuban music will be given by jazz radio host and Latin music specialist **Jesse “Chuy” Varela**. This is the third event in a series that includes background information, guest interviews and musical illustrations to complement performances by Ballet Flamenco José Porcel (12/5), Noche Flamenca (1/23); Afro-Cuban All Stars (2/25); and Chick Corea and John McLaughlin – Five Peace Band (3/21). While the talks are free and open to the public, tickets must be purchased for entrance to the associated concerts.

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**Wednesday, February 25 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*World Stage*

**Afro-Cuban All Stars**

**Program:** Juan de Marcos González leads the Afro-Cuban All-Stars in a mix of contemporary *timba*, swinging big band and Afro-Cuban jazz.

**Tickets:** \$24.00, \$34.00 and \$46.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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