

CONTACT:  
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperformances.org  
Joe Yang 510.642.9121  
scyang@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 21, 2011

**CUBAN-BORN JAZZ PIANO PHENOMENON  
ALFREDO RODRÍGUEZ  
MAKES HIS CAL PERFORMANCES DEBUT ON  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, AT 7:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

**BERKELEY, December 21, 2011**—The 25-year-old jazz pianist **Alfredo Rodríguez** makes his Cal Performances debut on **Sunday, January 29**, at **7:00 p.m.** at **Hertz Hall**. Rodríguez, who first caught the ear of the legendary Quincy Jones at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2006 and remains Jones' protégé, has been compared with jazz greats Keith Jarrett, Thelonious Monk, Art Tatum, Bill Evans, and Chucho Valdés. His virtuosic, eclectic solos and arrangements are colored by his Cuban roots and classical influences ranging from Bach to Stravinsky. Rodríguez's sold-out debut at New York's famed Jazz Standard in 2009 was called "keyed-in and chaotic, masterfully effortless at times and full of giddy growing pains at others. All in all, the performance was breathtaking" (*All About Jazz*).

**Alfredo Rodríguez** is the son of the famed Cuban singer-songwriter Alfredo Rodríguez, Sr. The younger Rodríguez began studying classical piano at the age of seven years-old, and was in his senior year of study at the Classical University of Havana in 2009 when he traveled to Merida, Mexico, to play a gig with his father. There he made a bold choice: to risk arrest by crossing the border into the United States to pursue a career as a jazz musician. With his family's blessing he sought to defect, describing his intentions truthfully to a border guard, and was whisked to Los Angeles, where he lives today.

Rodríguez knew the welcome mat would be waiting for him in the United States because of his earlier meeting with Quincy Jones at the Montreux Jazz Festival; Quincy invited Rodríguez to play for him. Jones has since helped the young pianist land gigs at the Playboy Jazz Festival, the Hollywood Bowl, the Gilmore Keyboard, Detroit, Newport, San Francisco, North Sea, Umbria, and Vienna Jazz festivals, and at top jazz clubs, including Yoshi's, Jazz Standard and The Blue Note. Among his many accomplishments since then, Rodríguez worked with Academy Award-winning Chinese composer Tan Dun, Grammy Award-winning songwriter Siedah Garrett

-MORE-

and Jones to compose an English-language version of the theme song for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo.

Rodríguez is the first jazz musician in more than 15 years to be signed to Jones's Qwest Records label. His first album, *Sounds of Space*, features original material and was produced by Jones. It is scheduled for release in spring 2012. Rodríguez also contributed a version of "The Bare Necessities" to a 2011 Disney compilation album, *Everybody Wants to Be a Cat, Volume 1*.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Alfredo Rodríguez**, piano, on **Sunday, January 29 at 7:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$32.00**. 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 three 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 \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988; press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

# # #

Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

-MORE-

KDFC is media sponsor of the 2011/12 Season.

# # #

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, January 29 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

*Jazz*

**Alfredo Rodríguez**, piano

**Program:** The Cuban-born jazz pianist makes his Cal Performances debut in Hertz Hall. The program will be announced from the stage.

**Tickets:** \$32.00, 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.

---

– Cal Performances –