

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

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**“JAZZ LATIN” MASTER EDDIE PALMIERI AND HIS SEPTET, AND
PUERTO RICAN SAXOPHONIST DAVID SÁNCHEZ, BRING
THEIR HARD DRIVING SALSA SOUND TO CAL PERFORMANCES
ON SATURDAY, APRIL 1 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, February 17, 2006—Jazz great **Eddie Palmieri**, one of the foremost Latin pianists, will mark more than 50 years of musical innovation with a concert of his trademark “Jazz Latin” on **Saturday, April 1 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. “Mr. Palmieri ... can make a piano roar,” says *The New York Times* of this lion of the genre. Joining him will be six stars of Latin jazz, including longtime Palmieri associates **Conrad Herwig, Brian Lynch** and **Donald Harrison**. Palmieri and his septet will be joined by the Puerto Rican tenor saxophonist **David Sánchez**, “the most profound young tenor saxophonist working today” (jazz critic Howard Reich).

EDDIE PALMIERI

Pianist Eddie Palmieri was born in Harlem and began playing in New York’s Palladium Ballroom—the famed “Home of the Mambo”—with Johnny Sequi’s orchestra in 1955. Palmieri’s ability to fuse the rhythms of his Puerto Rican heritage with the jazz influences of Thelonius Monk and McCoy Tyner made him an immediate hit, and for more than 50 years he has been a musical innovator, blending salsa, R&B, pop, rock, Spanish vocals and jazz improvisation.

Virtually every Latin jazz artist has influenced, played with, or been influenced by Palmieri. Early in his career, with the late trombonist Barry Rogers, he created the two-trombone Latin ensemble that superseded the trumpet-dominated ensembles of the day. He formed an Afro-Caribbean jazz octet along with trumpeter Brian Lynch, trombonist Conrad Herwig, and alto saxophonist Donald Harrison. For the album *Listen Here!* he worked with co-producer Richard Seidel, bassist John Benitez, Cuban traps wizard Horacio “El Negro” Hernandez and master conguero Giovanni Hidalgo, along with an all-star cohort of soloists including Regina Carter, Nicholas Payton and John Scofield. He performed John Coltrane’s “Africa” on Conrad Herwig’s *The Latin Side of John Coltrane*. Palmieri recently completed a

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memorable duo engagement with David Sánchez at Manhattan's Le Jazz Au Bar, creating a kind of Latin Chamber Jazz.

Palmieri's music spans many decades and mixes many styles. But, if pressed for a label for his art, he makes a choice that's "crowd-friendly." "Hardcore salsa is, in fact, what I have been playing all my life," Palmieri told the *Express-Times* (New Jersey). "The word salsa was incorporated to include and group together all the rhythmical patterns which have their own names, so the masses could say, oh, that's salsa music." Palmieri's discography contains more than 32 titles, including the influential, critically acclaimed albums *Obra Maestra* (with Tito Puente), *La Perfecta II* and *Ritmo Caliente*. He helped create the Latin Grammy awards in 1994, and has himself earned seven Grammys in 14 nominations.

DAVID SÁNCHEZ

Born in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, David Sanchez played percussion at age 8 and picked up the saxophone at age 12. He studied at the prestigious La Escuela Libre de Musica in San Juan, and enrolled at the Universidad de Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras in 1986, but he was drawn to the New York music scene and in 1988 earned a music scholarship to Rutgers University. He dove into the New York Jazz scene, gigging with Eddie Palmieri and Paquito D'Rivera and, in 1991, joining Dizzie Gillespie's United Nations Orchestra.

In addition to an active recording career, Sánchez maintains a busy touring schedule. He toured Europe and Asia in 2003 with pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba, completed a European tour in 2004 with vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater, and performs frequently with his own quartet in Europe and the Americas. A prolific composer, Sánchez was a 2005 grant recipient in Chamber Music America's "New Works: Creation and Presentation" program. He is an active clinician and has held visiting professorships at the Peabody Conservatory, the Conservatory of Puerto Rico, and at Indiana University. He is artist in residence for the 2005–2006 academic year at Georgia State University.

Also on tour with Eddie Palmieri are the Puerto Rican bassist **John Benítez** (coincidentally, a classmate of David Sánchez at the Escuela Libre); **José Clausell**, timbales, who performed with Palmieri in *La Perfecta II*; New Orleans-born saxophonist **Donald**

Harrison; Conrad Herwig, Palmieri's longtime friend and collaborator, on trombone; the great Puerto Rican percussionist **Giovanni Hidalgo**; and trumpeter **Brian Lynch**, a frequent associate of Palmieri.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Eddie Palmieri Septet** with **David Sánchez** on **Saturday, April 1 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$32.00, and \$42.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, April 1 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Jazz

Eddie Palmieri, piano

David Sánchez, tenor saxophone

The Eddie Palmieri Septet:

John Benítez, bass

José Clausell, timbales

Donald Harrison, saxophone

Conrad Herwig, trombone

Giovanni Hidalgo, percussion

Brian Lynch, trumpet

Program of Latin Jazz music to be announced.

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