

Ensemble and Guest Artist Recital:

2019-02-23 – Latin Jazz Ensemble, Francisco Mora Catlett and Danys 'La Mora' Pérez



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LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE "Roots of Latin Music" Concert
James Dreier, director

featuring guest artists:

Francisco Mora Catlett & Danys "La Mora" Pérez

Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Voxman Music Building, Concert Hall

ROOTS OF LATIN MUSIC

Latin Jazz Ensemble

With guest artists: Francisco Mora Catlett and Danys "La Mora" Pérez

Jazz. "It's something that's very old, but it's still growing. It's like a tree that has a big, big trunk and old roots, but if you look up at the top, you can see it's still sprouting little leaves. It's still coming out, waving in the breeze. That's what we have to do, make sure the tree don't get sick."

- New Orleans drummer Johnny Vidacovich

PROGRAM

The Roots:

CUBiowA Drum & Dance Group
Francisco Mora Catlett, *percussion*
Danys "La Mora" Pérez, *master teacher of Afro Cuban Dance*
(order and content subject to change)

Eleguá (Yoruba): This is an Orisha from Cuba's Santería religious tradition. Eleguá is the guardian of the gates and likes to play tricks on humankind. He is recognized at the beginning of any journey or event.

Oyá (Yoruba): This female Orisha represents maternal instincts and when provoked, will respond with wind and storms over the water.

Rumba Guaguancó: A uniquely secular Cuban rhythm and dance that captures both the story (sung by the sonero at the front of the piece) and the age-old interplay between man and woman (shown by the dancers).

Palo (Bantu): Another folkloric religious tradition from Cuba showing the roots of people from the Congo basin of West Africa. Palo is an intense dance and rhythm that shows the intense energy of warrior characteristics.

The Branches:

UI Latin Jazz Ensemble
Featuring guest artist: Francisco Mora Catlett
(soloists recognized on stage)

"Saints at Congo Square"	Traditional (arr: Francisco Mora Catlett)
"One Spirit One Voice"	Francisco Mora Catlett
"Sunny"	Francisco Mora Catlett
"Se Eu Soubesse"	Luis Bonilla
"Five Times Max"	Francisco Mora Catlett
"Ye Ye Olude" (Iyesa)	Francisco Mora Catlett
"Conga de Comparsa"	Traditional
(with CUBiowA dancers and drummers)	

THE CUBiowA DRUMMERS

Chris Loeckle
Maurice Artiaga
Carlo Kind
Ed East
Adam Grosso
Michal Brauhn
Ben Yancy

THE CUBiowA DANCERS

Modei Akyea - *director*
Jensen Steinbronn
Alexandra Recht
Yinyin Hou
Emily Gumal
Dharmini Piekarska
Sarah Skilling

THE LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

James Dreier - *director*
Josh Theodore, *alto sax*
Matt Nicholson, *tenor sax*
Derek VanDenTop, *bari sax*
Ben Hoefle, *trumpet*

Claire McCall, *trumpet*
Nicholas Krejci, *trombone*
Rayne Dias, *piano*
Murilo Rezende, *bass*
Ryan Smith, *drums & percussion*

BIOGRAPHIES

Francisco Mora Catlett. Drummer, composer, and educator, Catlett comes to his visionary work naturally. Born in Washington, D.C. into a family of celebrated artists (Mexican painter Francisco Mora and African-American sculptress Elizabeth Catlett), he began his musical career in Mexico City, where he grew up.

Mora Catlett worked as a session musician for Capitol Records' Mexican division during 1968–1970. He studied at the Music School of UNAM in Mexico with a grant from the Mexican government. From 1970–1973, he returned to the United States to study with Alan Dawson at the Berklee School of Music in Boston. He left Mexico City with the Sun Ra Arkestra in 1973 and worked with Sun Ra until 1980. While living in Detroit, he released his first album in 1987 as a leader for the Pan-Afro project *Mora!*

Since relocating to New York City in 2002, he co-founded the “Oyu Oro Afro-Cuban Dance Company” with his wife, Cuban dancer and choreographer, Danys “La Mora” Pérez. Mora Catlett has added to his recording projects: two CDs for the FREEDOM JAZZ TRIO; *New Under The Sun*, featuring Francesco Tristano in 2010, and *Live At The Bronx Museum with Craig Taborn* in 2011; the new “Outer Zone Band” CD; ANDROMEDA M-31 featuring Craig Taborn, JD Allen, Graham Haynes, and Val-Inc., in 2010; the acclaimed 2012 double CD, AFRO HORN MX, with JD Allen, Vincent Bowers, Alex Harding, Aruán Ortiz, Rashaan Carter, and Roman Díaz; followed by AfroHORN “RARE METAL” in 2013 featuring Sam Newsome, Salim Washington, and vocal work from Oyu Oro, as well as AfroHORN “AT THE EDGE OF THE SPIRAL” in 2015/2016.

Danys “La Mora” Pérez: founder, artistic director, and choreographer of OYU ORO Afro Cuban Dance Ensemble. Originally from Santiago de Cuba, Danys “La Mora” Pérez is an internationally renowned master of Afro-Cuban folkloric dance. Pérez’s special expertise as dancer, teacher, dance ethnologist, and choreographer is in the unique styles of her native region of the Oriente province in Eastern Cuba. Oriente attributes its rich cultural heritage to the infusion of Afro-Haitian influences to an already vibrant Afro-Cuban context.

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Pérez began her dance training at an early age with Afro-Cuban and Afro-Haitian dance ensembles. At thirteen, she was asked to join the renowned national folkloric ballet company, Cutumba, and toured internationally with the company for eighteen years. While dancing with Cutumba, she founded her own dance company, Adiro Omode, for children ages four to fifteen in Santiago de Cuba. Adiro Omode has trained some of the internationally acclaimed professional dancers currently working with Cutumba and Folklorico National de Oriente. In 1998, Las Mora was the founder of another dance company, the original Oyu Oro, with professional and amateur dancers also based in Santiago de Cuba.

Since her first visit to the States in 1996, she has taught at numerous universities such as Cornell University, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Williams College, University of New Mexico, Wayne State University in Detroit, and University of Michigan. She was invited by the legendary Katherine Dunham to participate in her East Saint Louis seminars and the icon's invitation to Wayne State University led to the inaugural performance at the African-American Museum in Detroit.

For the past four years, she has been teaching weekly Afro Cuban dance classes at The Alvin Ailey Extension program. She has also attended several dance programs and workshops outside New York as a guest instructor and choreographer, including the annual participation at the summer intensive dance program at Humboldt University in California and Tulane University in New Orleans.

Modei Akyea: Modei Akyea is a long-time member of the Latin Dance community in the Iowa City area. He has studied Cuban folkloric dance in Cuba with members of Los Munequitos de Matanzas and AfroCuba de Matanzas.

A Note of Recognition

Akyea and Dreier, along with colleague Paul Cunliffe (Dance) co-directed the UI Afro-Cuban Drum and Dance Ensemble along with two "Intro" classes for dance and drums from roughly 2004–2015. Originating in the Music Department and then based in Dance, the group was a collaborative inter-departmental ensemble that performed the folkloric music of Cuba in campus concerts and throughout the state of Iowa (UI ArtShare program). The directors made several trips to Cuba, including a study abroad trip for UI students in 2003. This unique ensemble and the direct-source research developed for it is part of what has made this concert possible tonight.

We would like to thank the following departments, areas, and people for their support of this event.

University of Iowa Office of the President, University of Iowa School of Music, UI Division of Performing Arts, UI Jazz area and Area Head John Rapson, Kate Metcalf, UI Center for Advancement, and Armando Duarte, liaison to the UI Department of Dance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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