

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Suzette Espinosa Fuentes
(786) 468-2221
sespinosa@arshtcenter.org

Eva Bordeaux Silverstein
(786) 468-2323
esilverstein@arshtcenter.org



**GRAMMY® AWARD WINNERS, LATIN JAZZ PIANO MASTERS
EDDIE PALMIERI AND MICHEL CAMILO
HEADLINE
JAZZ ROOTS: PIANO LATINO
THE FINAL CONCERT THIS SEASON OF THE HIT
JAZZ ROOTS SERIES AT THE
ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

*And Introducing Quincy Jones' Protégé
24-year-old Cuban-born Piano Sensation
Alfredo Rodriguez in his Miami debut!*

**Friday, April 16, 2010 at 8 p.m.
Tickets \$25 to \$125
John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall**

MIAMI, FL March 22, 2010 – In celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month, two of the greatest living Latin jazz pianists will perform in **JAZZ ROOTS: A Larry Rosen Jazz Series: PIANO LATINO**, a concert paying tribute to the spicy Latin roots of jazz, showcasing two Grammy Award-winning Latin pianists, **Eddie Palmieri** and **Michel Camilo**, on Friday, April 16, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. in the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County. The program will highlight the unique artistry, style, and technique of these two legendary musicians who play such a

vital role in Latin music. The evening will also feature the Miami debut of 24-year old Cuban-born pianist **Alfredo Rodriguez**, one of the Latin music world's most talented young stars, who was discovered by the illustrious Quincy Jones.

“This last installment in our 2009-2010 Jazz Roots series is a valentine to the Latin flavor of Miami,” said M. John Richard, President and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. “We are ecstatic to host the Miami debut of this young jazz protégé, and these legendary Latin jazz artists, two of the greatest living pianists, will light up the stage of the Knight Concert Hall and have our South Florida community on their feet dancing.”

“Our *Piano Latino* concert presents three of the most outstanding and innovative Latin jazz pianists of our time,” said JAZZ ROOTS Producer Larry Rosen. “These amazing artists represent three generations and come from three different cultural backgrounds. Eddie Palmieri, multi GRAMMY award winner, is Puerto Rican, Latin GRAMMY winner Michel Camilo is from the Dominican Republic, and 23 year old virtuoso Alfredo Rodriguez is from Cuba. They all play with unique styles, but the African based Latin Jazz component is the musical DNA that connects them together. The *Piano Latino* show truly represent our overarching JAZZ ROOTS theme and brings our Miami community together.”

Grammy Award-winning Puerto Rican pianist **Eddie Palmieri** is known for his charismatic power and bold innovative drive. Nicknamed "the sun of latin music," he has played a key role in Latin music's Afro-Caribbean jazz movement and in drum-based improvisational salsa music. **Palmieri's** musical career spans over 50 years as a bandleader of latin salsa and jazz orchestras. Born in Spanish Harlem, **Eddie Palmieri** began piano studies at an early age, and at age 11, **Palmieri** auditioned at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. He began his professional career as a pianist in the early 1950s with Eddie Forrester's Orchestra and also played with various bands such as the Tito Rodriguez Orchestra before forming his own band. In 1961, **Palmieri** formed the legendary band, La Perfecta, which distinguished itself by featuring a trombone section and a flute in place of trumpets, demonstrating his unconventional style of orchestration. The band reigned supreme until 1968, and became known as one of the most influential and imitated bands in Latin music history.

With a discography that includes 36 titles, **Palmieri** has been awarded nine Grammy Awards. He received a Latin Grammy and a traditional Grammy for his release with Tito Puente entitled *Obra Maestra/Masterpiece, Listen Here!* in 2006, and *Simpatico* in 2007 for Best Latin Jazz Recording, which was a collaborative effort with trumpet master Brian Lynch. The Smithsonian Institute recorded two of **Palmieri's** performances for its catalog of the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., a rare public honor. His numerous awards include the Eubie Blake Award by Dr. Billy Taylor, the Alice Tully African Heritage Award, the Harlem Renaissance Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from *Urban Latino* magazine. In 2005, his 50 years in the music world

were celebrated with a musical tribute to Mr. **Palmieri** in a concert in his native Puerto Rico, featuring an all-star line-up of Latin music stars. Today, **Eddie Palmieri** maintains an active performance and teaching schedule, sharing his legacy of musical landmarks in the world of latin jazz.

Michel Camilo is known throughout the world not only as a great Latin jazz pianist, but also as a classical performer, conductor, and composer. A native of the Dominican Republic, he studied for 13 years at the National Conservatory, and at the age of 16, became a member of the National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic. He moved to New York in 1979, where he studied at Mannes College of Music and at The Juilliard School. Shortly thereafter, his song *Why Not?* became a hit for the Manhattan Transfer and caught on as a jazz standard, while *Caribe* entered the repertoire of Dizzy Gillespie, solidifying his stature as a jazz great.

A pianist with brilliant technique and a composer who flavors his tunes with Caribbean rhythms and jazz harmonies, **Camilo** made his Carnegie Hall debut with his trio in 1985. Since then, he has become a prominent figure performing regularly in South, Central, and North America, the Caribbean, Japan, and Europe. He has appeared as soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the Atlanta Symphony, as well as The Carnegie Hall Jazz Band. The National Symphony Orchestra (Washington D.C.) selected Camilo as Co-Artistic Director, with Leonard Slatkin, of the first Latin-Caribbean Music Festival at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. At the turn of the millennium, his Verve release, *Spain*, won Best Latin Jazz Album in the first-ever Latin Grammy Awards. The following year, **Camilo** appeared on the soundtrack CD for the acclaimed Latin jazz film *Calle 54*, directed by the Oscar-winning Spaniard, Fernando Trueba. As a composer, he has written scores for several Spanish language films, including the award-winning European film *Amo Tu Cama Rica* and *Los Peores Años de Nuestra Vida*. August 2003 marked the Telarc release of his album *Live at the Blue Note*, featuring Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez on drums and Charles Flores on acoustic bass. This two-CD set captures the quintessential **Camilo** "sound" live for the first time, and was awarded a Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album. His latest album, *Spirit of the Moment*, returns **Camilo** to the trio format for which he has become famous.

In his native Havana, the young pianist **Alfredo Rodriguez** was the son of a renowned Cuban singer and trained at the famed Manuel Saumell Elementary Classical Music Conservatory. While the only formal music education available was classical, Rodriguez eventually began developing an interest in popular music and began playing with small groups on the streets of Havana. He then toured with his father's band throughout Cuba, Latin America, and Spain. It was his uncle who introduced **Rodriguez** to the great jazz pianist Keith Jarrett (who is known as a connoisseur of classical music) through his *Koln Concert* recording, which gave clarity to his musical aspirations.

At the 2006 Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, **Rodriguez** was discovered by über-producer Quincy Jones; he had been selected as one of two Cubans to play at the prestigious festival. For several years, Jones and **Rodriguez** kept in touch via e-mail until **Rodriguez** finally decided to pursue his musical career in America so that he could work with his new mentor. Shortly after defecting from Cuba in January 2009, **Rodriguez** made his U.S. debut performance at the Hollywood Bowl as part of the 31st Playboy Jazz Festival. Last October, he returned to the Hollywood Bowl to open for Herbie Hancock and others at *Bienvenido Gustavo!*, the official welcome concert celebrating the inaugural season of young Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel as the new Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In just one year since arriving in the U.S., **Rodriguez** has also played to capacity crowds at the SXSW Music Festival, the Detroit Jazz Festival, the Monterey Jazz Festival, San Francisco Jazz Festival, and made his New York debut before a sold-out audience at The Jazz Standard. His debut album, with Quincy Jones, will be released in the Spring of 2010 on Qwest Records, followed by his first European tour in the Summer of 2010.

JAZZ ROOTS also features an in-depth educational partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools which will bring more than 900 music students to the Center for a unique behind-the-scenes experience, including a pre-concert sound check and a Q&A session with featured artists followed by a workshop with a local jazz expert that will highlight the music, the artistic process and the practical skills needed for a career in the arts. In addition, the Center has developed a curriculum which will be distributed to 800 music, English and social studies teachers throughout the MDCPS school system, potentially serving 24,000 children.

The JAZZ ROOTS series is presented in partnership with Bank of America. WPBT Channel 2, WDNA 88.9 FM Serious Jazz, WLRN 91.3 FM, Capsule Media and Daniel Azoulay Gallery have generously agreed to be media sponsors of JAZZ ROOTS.

CALENDAR LISTING

Adrienne Arsht Center and Larry Rosen present

JAZZ ROOTS: PIANO LATINO

Featuring Michel Camilo and Eddie Palmieri, and introducing Alfredo Rodriguez

Eddie Palmieri thrills audiences throughout the world with his unique style, charismatic power and bold, innovative drive.

Michel Camilo, the Dominican-born winner of a Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album, is a virtuoso pianist with technique to spare, who flavors his tunes with the spice of Caribbean rhythms and jazz harmonies.

Alfredo Rodriguez, the Cuban-born 24-year old, is a Quincy Jones discovery. His amazing improvisational skills and beautiful artistic soul represents a new generation of world-class artists.

April 16, 2010 at 8 p.m.

**Knight Concert Hall
Adrienne Arsht Center
1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132**

Tickets: \$25 to \$125

For tickets, visit www.arshtcenter.org or call the box office at (305) 949-6722.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information for details and schedules. See highlights and video for the JAZZ ROOTS series at www.jazzroots.net.

Prices, artists, dates, times and program are subject to change without notice.

Editor's Note:

Related high-resolution photos are available at www.arshtcenter.org/press and www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos.

Support for the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County's Jazz Roots education program is generously provided by the Arison Arts Foundation; with the additional support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor, and the Board of County Commissioners. The Jazz Roots education program is also funded in part by the Children's Trust. The Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation through its Visionary Society membership program and Encore Circle major gifts program; American Express Company; Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Arison Arts Foundation; Association of Performing Arts Presenters; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; Dade Community Foundation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Ford Foundation; Funding Arts Network; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Community Connections Fund of MetLife Foundation; New England Foundation for the Arts; Southern Arts Federation; The Cowles Charitable Trust; The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

###

About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County:

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and

restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open five days a week.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

About Larry Rosen

Larry Rosen, producer and creator of the JAZZ ROOTS series at the Adrienne Arsht Center is an entrepreneur, visionary, musician, and producer. Mr. Rosen is chairman of Larry Rosen Productions, Inc.; co-founder and co-chairman of LRSmedia, LLC; co-founder, past chairman and CEO of N2K, Inc. (NASDAQ); and co-founder, past president and CEO of GRP Records, Inc. Mr. Rosen is the creator and producer of the PBS TV series LEGENDS OF JAZZ, and is the creator and producer of the eight-part TV mini-series titled "RECORDING: The History of Recorded Music." Mr. Rosen is the co-founder and past CEO of GRP Records Inc. where he produced or executive-produced over 350 albums. GRP is one of the industry's top jazz record labels, whose all-star roster of artists and recordings were nominated for over eight GRAMMY awards. Mr. Rosen co-founded N2K, Inc. which was the first major online company to sell music digitally, earning him Ernst & Young's prestigious "Entrepreneur of the Year" award in New Media & Entertainment.