

Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 8pm  
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

**JAZZ**  
at **PRINCETON**  
UNIVERSITY

and



**PROGRAM IN LATIN  
AMERICAN STUDIES**

*present*

**SMALL GROUP I**

Rudresh Mahanthappa, *Director*

with special guest

**DANILO PÉREZ, *Piano***

Alex Laurenzi '20, *Alto Saxophone*

Theodore Davis,\* *Tenor Saxophone*

Conor Fitzpatrick '18, *Trumpet*

Sam Bartusek '20, *Guitar*

Philip Taylor '21, *Electric Piano*

Ian Kenselaar,\* *Bass*

Ben Alessio '21, *Drums*

*\*denotes guest performer*

*Selections will be announced from the stage*

## ABOUT THE GUEST ARTIST

Change and uncertainty in the social landscape can create misconception and cause division. Music can serve as a natural remedy to unfortunate situations, providing an uplifting message, connection and common ground. **DANILO PÉREZ'S** Global Messengers project advances a mission which is wholly relevant today. When discussing the healing properties of music, the Panamanian jazz pianist, humanitarian, and educator speaks of “recovering the function of the artist as a tool to redirect humanity in a positive direction.” The Global Messengers came to fruition through the culture and experiences of its members, hailing from Palestine, Greece, Jordan, and Panama. Vasilis Kostas (laouto), Layth Al-Rubaye (violin), Naseem Alatrash (cello), a percussionist, and Pérez use their talents to make an impression through beautiful melodies and strikingly syncopated rhythms. This music and performance have a rare ability to take an audience to experience the ancient practice of building community through music.

Inspiring young players to believe that they can positively affect their communities as they learn their craft, Pérez serves as a UNESCO Artist For Peace, Cultural Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Founder and Artistic Director of the Panama Jazz Festival, as well as Founder and Artistic Director of the Berklee Global Jazz Institute in Boston's Berklee College of Music.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Hailed by *Pitchfork* as “jaw-dropping... one of the finest saxophonists going,” alto saxophonist, composer and educator **RUDRESH MAHANTHAPPA** is widely known as one of the premier voices in jazz of the 21st century. He has over a dozen albums to his credit, including the acclaimed *Bird Calls*, which topped many critics' best-of-year lists for 2015 and was hailed by *PopMatters* as “complex, rhythmically vital, free in spirit while still criss-crossed with mutating structures.” Rudresh has been named alto saxophonist of the year for six of seven years running in *Downbeat Magazine's* International Critics' Polls (2011-2013, 2015-2017), and for five consecutive years by the Jazz Journalists' Association (2009-2013) and again in 2016. He won alto saxophonist of the year in the 2016 *JazzTimes Magazine* Critics' Poll and was named the *Village Voice's* “Best Jazz Artist” in 2015. He has also received the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, among other honors, and is currently the Anthony H. P. Lee '79 Director of Jazz at Princeton University.

Born in Trieste, Italy to Indian émigrés in 1971, Mahanthappa was brought up in Boulder, Colorado and gained proficiency playing everything from current pop to Dixieland. He went on to studies at North Texas, Berklee and DePaul University (as well as the Stanford Jazz Workshop) and came to settle in Chicago. Soon after moving to New York in 1997 he formed his own quartet featuring pianist Vijay Iyer. The band recorded an enduring sequence

of albums, *Black Water*, *Mother Tongue* and *Codebook*, each highlighting Mahanthappa's inventive methodologies and deeply personal approach to composition. He and Iyer also formed the duo Raw Materials.

Coming deeper into contact with the Carnatic music of his parents' native southern India, Mahanthappa partnered in 2008 with fellow altoist Kadri Gopalnath and the Dakshina Ensemble for *Kinsmen*, garnering wide acclaim. *Apti*, the first outing by Mahanthappa's Indo-Pak Coalition (with Pakistani-born Rez Abbasi on guitar and Dan Weiss on tabla), saw release the same year; *Agrima* followed nine years later and considerably expanded the trio's sonic ambitions.

Mahanthappa has also worked with Jack DeJohnette, Mark Dresser, Danilo Pérez, Arturo O'Farrill's Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, the collaborative trios MSG and Mauger, the co-led quintet Dual Identity with fellow altoist Steve Lehman, and another co-led quintet with fellow altoist and Chicago stalwart Bunky Green (Apex). His exploratory guitar-driven quartets on *Samdhi* and *Gamak* featured David Gilmore and Dave "Fuze" Fiuczynski, respectively. In 2015, he was commissioned by Ragamala Dance to create Song of the Jasmine for dancers and a hybrid jazz/South Indian ensemble. He was also commissioned by the PRISM Saxophone Quartet to compose a chamber piece, "I Will Not Apologize for My Tone Tonight," which can be heard on the quartet's 2015 double-disc release *Heritage/Evolution, Volume 1*. Mahanthappa is a Yamaha artist and uses Vandoren reeds exclusively.

**JAZZ AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY** serves to promote this uniquely American music as a contemporary and relevant art form. Our goals are to convey the vast musical and social history of jazz, establish a strong theoretical and stylistic foundation with regard to improvisation and composition, and emphasize the development of individual expression and creativity. Offerings of this program include academic course work, performing ensembles, master classes, private study, and independent projects. We thank you for joining us on this evening's journey of beauty, exploration, discovery, and hope.

Founded in 1968, the **PROGRAM OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES** (PLAS) is one of the nation's first centers dedicated exclusively to Latin American area studies. At the program's core is a mission to increase knowledge of the histories, cultures, economies, environments of Latin America, including Brazil and the Caribbean, and to foster cooperation and understanding across the Americas by bringing Latin American scholars, artists, politicians, and scientists to campus, and by providing support for collaborative research, community service, and cultural exchanges in the region. This concert is part of the series of public events commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the program. For more information, please visit <https://plas.princeton.edu>.

# McCarter THEATRE CENTER



The Hot Sardines



Chucho Valdés

## 2017-2018 SEASON JAZZ EVENTS

*Jazz of Cuba:*

**Alfredo Rodriguez**, piano

**Saturday, October 21, 2017 – 8pm**

**Songs of Freedom:**

*Celebrating the Songs of Joni Mitchell,  
Abbey Lincoln, and Nina Simone*

**Sunday, October 22, 2017 – 3pm**

**The Hot Sardines**

**Thursday, December 14, 2017 – 7:30pm**

**Rudresh Mahanthappa**

And his Indo-Pak Coalition

**Friday, March 16, 2018 – 8pm**

**John Pizzarelli Quartet**

With Catherine Russell

*Billie & Blue Eyes*

**Sunday, March 18, 2018 – 3pm**

*Jazz of Cuba:*

**Chucho Valdés**

With Edmar Castaneda, jazz harp and  
Grégoire Maret, chromatic harmonica

**Thursday, April 12, 2018 – 7:30pm**

*Jazz of Cuba:*

**Roberto Fonseca Quintet**

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018 – 7:30pm**

*Crosscurrents:*

**Zakir Hussain**

and **Dave Holland**

With Guest Artists from India and the Jazz World

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018 – 7:30pm**

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