

PRESS RELEASE

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THE SANTA FE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS
PRESENTS

Jazz Meets the Classics

FEBRUARY 20, 2011— 4:00 P.M. AT THE LENSIC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

CONDUCTED BY STEVEN SMITH, SANTA FE SYMPHONY MUSIC DIRECTOR

FEATURING
THE SANTA FE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
DANILO PÉREZ, PIANIST AND COMPOSER
& THE DANILO PÉREZ TRIO



Adam Cruz Danilo Pérez Ben Street

“When the dust settles, the pianist Danilo Pérez will be looking like one of the best things that happened to jazz around the turn of the millennium.”
—**The New York Times**

One of the most dynamic and influential musicians of our time, Danilo Pérez, joins the Santa Fe Symphony on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lensic Performing Arts Center. In collaboration with Friends of Santa Fe Jazz, the Symphony is extremely excited to have Perez and the Grammy Award-winning Danilo Pérez Trio join them for this exciting and unique concert. Enjoy music from Pérez’s CD *Across the Crystal Sea*, such as “If I Forget You” on a theme by Rachmaninov, “Purple Color” on a theme by de Falla, and the Brazilian influenced “Le boeuf sur le toit” by Darius Milhaud.

Immediately following this spectacular evening, is the “Club Symphony” party at La Posada Resort & Spa. Enjoy delicious gourmet food stations, a jazz trio, and dancing. Meet the evening’s Grammy

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Award-winning guest artist, Danilo Pérez. All proceeds will benefit the Santa Fe Symphony's *Jazz Meets the Classics Concerts Initiative*. Tickets for the dinner/dance party are \$125 per person, a portion of which is tax-deductible. Call the Santa Fe Symphony for additional information (505) 983-3530.

DANILO PÉREZ

Grammy award-winner Danilo Pérez is among the most influential and dynamic musicians of our time. In just over a decade, his distinctive blend of Pan-American jazz (covering the music of the Americas, folkloric, and world music) has attracted critical acclaim and loyal audiences. Danilo's abundant talents and joyous enthusiasm make his concerts both memorable and inspiring. Whether leading his own ensembles or touring with renowned jazz masters (Wayne Shorter, Roy Haynes, Steve Lacy), Danilo is making a decidedly fresh imprint on contemporary music, guided, as always, by his love for jazz.

Danilo has led his own groups since the early 1990s, and as bandleader has earned three Grammy® nominations for his ebullient and innovative recordings. *Motherland* was nominated for two Grammy® Awards for "Best Latin Jazz Album," and also garnered his third win for "Best Jazz Album" from the prestigious Boston Music Awards. *Motherland* was named (as were his previous four releases) among the best albums of the year by such publications as the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Diego Tribune*, *Billboard* and *JazzTimes*. In 2002, he received a nomination from the Jazz Journalists Association for "Pianist of the Year."

Born in Panama in 1966, Danilo started his musical studies at just three years of age with his father, a bandleader and singer. By age 10, he was studying the European classical piano repertoire at the National Conservatory in Panama. After receiving his bachelor's degree in electronics, he moved to the United States to enroll at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and, after changing his major to music, transferred to the prestigious Berklee College of Music. From 1985-1988, while completing his studies in jazz composition, Danilo performed with Jon Hendricks, Terence Blanchard, Claudio Roditi, and Paquito D'Rivera, and produced the critically-acclaimed *Reunion* album (Messidor Records) featuring D'Rivera and Arturo Sandoval. In 1994, Danilo also appeared on Sandoval's Grammy® award-winning album *Danzon*. Since the late 1980s, he has toured and/or recorded with Wayne Shorter, Steve Lacy, Jack DeJohnette, Charlie Haden, Michael Brecker, Joe Lovano, Tito Puente, Wynton Marsalis, John Patitucci, Tom Harrell, Gary Burton, and Roy Haynes. *Roy Haynes Trio* (Verve 2000) was named one of the best albums of the year by Gary Giddins

Danilo first attracted the spotlight as the youngest member of Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Orchestra (1989-1992). This pivotal tenure solidified his command of the eclectic, post-bop Latin style, and brought him to the forefront on Gillespie's Grammy® award-winning recording "Live At The Royal Festival Hall" (Enja), an appearance at the Kennedy Center, and worldwide touring.

In 1993, Danilo turned his focus to his own ensembles and recording projects. A bold, ingenious bandleader, he moved into the spotlight once again, this time for his own RCA/Novus CDs - *Danilo Pérez* (1993) and *The Journey* (1994). *The Journey* placed prominently in several Top Ten Albums of 1994 lists. *DownBeat* gave it 4 1/2 stars and listed it among the best CDs of the '90s; it also received a "Jazziz Critics Choice Award." In 1995, Danilo became the first Latin member of Wynton Marsalis' band, and the first jazz musician to perform with the Panamanian Symphony Orchestra, which featured an expanded 80-piece orchestral version of "The Journey." He also released two recordings for impulse! - *PanaMonk* (1996) and *Central Avenue* (1998) - and won his first Grammy® nomination for "Best Jazz Album" for the latter; The New York Times praised *PanaMonk* as "a masterpiece of jazz synthesis." These four CDs accumulated numerous awards and Top Ten citations, firmly establishing Danilo's leadership role in a new generation of jazz artists.

Danilo also is part of the Wayne Shorter Quartet which won a Grammy in 2006 with their record *Beyond The Sound Barrier*. The new Wayne Shorter Quartet was voted "Best Small Ensemble of the Year" by the Jazz Journalists Association in 2002 and 2004. He is featured on Shorter's Verve releases, *Alegria* and *Footprints Live!* which received Five Stars from *DownBeat*. Shorter invited Danilo to join his first all-acoustic group after hearing him play. Favorably compared to the 1960's Miles Davis group that featured Shorter, the new quartet displays a remarkable freedom.

Currently, Perez serves as Artistic Director of the Panama Jazz Festival, Artistic Advisor of the innovative Mellon Jazz Up Close series at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, and Artistic Director of the Berklee Global Jazz Institute. His newest CD *Providencia* was released August 31, 2010 (Mack Avenue Records).

He also continues to play with a pair of long-time compadres, bassist Ben Street and drummer Adam Cruz, musicians that have been working with him for more than eight years. These musicians make up The Danilo Pérez Trio, each an accomplished musician in his own right. The trio stands among one of today's most consistent small-group ensembles. "Trust and deep knowing are the foundation

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for the spirited and soulful interplay among the musicians in this trio. "I know them very well," says Pérez," and we all try to practice brotherhood, love, equality and freedom in our personal lives and in our music. All of us have become a family, and there is a feeling of celebration, of transcending communication, when we play that it is very magical to me."

Tickets for Jazz Meets the Classics are \$20 to \$70, available through the Lensic or Symphony box office.

Contact the Santa Fe Symphony at (505) 983-1414 or (800) 480-1319, or the Lensic at (505) 988-1234.

Tickets are also available online—visit www.santafesymphony.org or www.lensic.org.