



NOVEMBER 9

FRIDAY

8:00PM

RITMO LATINO

CONGA KINGS: CANDIDO, "PATATO" VALDES AND GIOVANNI HILDALGO

HERBST THEATRE

"An unrivaled percussive triumvirate."

—RHYTHM MAGAZINE

Congueros Candido Camero, Carlos "Patato" Valdes and Giovanni Hidalgo came together in December 1999 to record the appropriately titled album *Conga Kings*, which was released the following April by Chesky. "Between Candido, Giovanni Hidalgo and Carlos 'Patato' Valdes, the entire history of Afro-Cuban music is represented, and as conga players they are peerless," wrote allmusic.com. The regal conga trio returns to the Festival for what promises to be a phenomenal evening of Latin jazz by two generations of true master percussionists.

Since the 1950s, Candido Camero has become famed as a percussionist in jazz and Afro-Cuban circles that he is known on a first name-only basis. A member of the house band at the renowned Tropicana club in his hometown of Havana, Cuba, Candido first played stateside with Dizzy Gillespie, Billy Taylor, and Stan Kenton. Soon, he became the "first call" *conguero* and bongo player.

When it comes to the development of Afro-Cuban jazz, Carlos "Patato" Valdez is another vital (if once underrecognized) figure. In addition to playing and recording with Mario Bauza and Tito Puente, he also worked with Gillespie and Art Blakey. The Havana native moved to New York when he was 28, at the height of the be-bop movement, and has been a dynamic force across several different musical scenes ever since.

Giovanni Hidalgo was the son of percussionist José Hidalgo, and actually started on the drum kit in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the age of five. Touring for four years in Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations All-Star Orchestra gave him bandstand experience with a master and a chance to travel and gig internationally. His subsequent studio credits include sessions with everyone from McCoy Tyner and Airto Moreira to Paul Simon and Sammy Hagar.

CONGA KINGS

Candido Camero, congas
 Carlos "Patato" Valdes, congas
 Giovanni Hidalgo, congas
 Guillermo Edgill, bass
 Enrique Fernandez, saxophone and flute
 Joe Gonzalez, percussion
 David Oquendo, guitar
 Julio Salgado, singer
 Ray Santos, musical director

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25 **Encore Performance.**
 Artists marking a Silver Anniversary return to the Festival.



NOVEMBER 10

SATURDAY

8:00PM

GENERATIONS OF JAZZ PIANO

HERBIE HANCOCK QUARTET; GONZALO RUBALCABA SOLO PIANO

NOB HILL MASONIC CENTER

"One of the supreme lyricists of the modern jazz keyboard."

—THE NEW YORK TIMES ON HERBIE HANCOCK

The heights of Nob Hill are the perfect environs for this evening's double-bill, showcasing two artists who have reached the pinnacle of the jazz piano—each a defining voice of his respective generation.

Whether playing in Miles Davis' quintet or his own acoustic groups in the 1960s, exploring electrified funk-jazz in the '70s, crafting early hip-hop and electronic sounds in the '80s, or redefining the concept of jazz standards for the 21st century, Hancock has always matched his conceptual and instrumental brilliance with a broad sense of adventure.

Hancock has also revived the jazz tradition of drawing on pop songs as springboards for improvisation. Case in point: His brand-new album, *River: The Joni Letters* (Verve) is an all-star vocal and instrumental tribute to singer-songwriter-guitarist Joni Mitchell, which features contributions from Leonard Cohen, Tina Turner, Wayne Shorter, Norah Jones and Mitchell herself.

Like Hancock, Gonzalo Rubalcaba first approached the piano from a European classical standpoint. By age 20, the Cuban native was a budding jazz virtuoso, touring Europe and Africa with Orquesta Aragon. Two years later, he formed his own jazz group but it was not until 1993 that he was able to first perform stateside. He quickly dazzled U.S. jazz fans (including none other than Herbie Hancock) both with his "prodigious technique" (*DownBeat*) and, in ballad settings, with his understated touch. A U.S. resident since 1996, Rubalcaba has released a string of celebrated discs on Blue Note Records, including his 2006 CD, *Solo*. As the pianist told journalist Dan Ouellette: "Appearing solo obligates you to talk to yourself, announce and denounce yourself...making clear the components that form oneself as a thinking individual."

HERBIE HANCOCK QUARTET

Herbie Hancock, piano
 Nathan East, bass
 Vinnie Colaiutta, drums
 Lionel Loueke, guitar
 TBA, vocalist

GONZALO RUBALCABA
 Gonzalo Rubalcaba, piano

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