ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Acclaimed musician and composer Paquito D’Rivera is a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master and recipient of the 2005 National Medal of the Arts. D’Rivera has won 14 GRAMMY® Awards and recorded more than 30 solo albums, and is celebrated both for his artistry in Latin jazz and his achievements as a classical composer. A founding member of famed trumpeter and bandleader Dizzy Gillespie’s United Nations Orchestra, virtuoso clarinetist and saxophonist D’Rivera is also a Carnegie Hall Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. Born in Havana, Cuba, he performed at age 10 with the National Theater Orchestra, studied at the Havana Conservatory of Music, and, at 17, became a featured soloist with the Cuban National Symphony. D’Rivera possesses a deep commitment to the cultural exchange between jazz and Latin music.

In July of 2003, the world lost international singing star Celia Cruz, “La Guarachera de Cuba” (“The Queen of Salsa”). As a young woman she studied to become a teacher before her singing career catapulted her to global stardom. On August 21, 2003, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg held a news conference at Lehman College to rename the Bronx High School of Music the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. Inspired by the excellence of its legendary namesake, The Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music has consistently been awarded a GOLD-rating at the New York State School Music Association’s annual competitions. It is a small school noted for students who continue their music studies while pursuing a challenging academic course of study.

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Los Sueños del Caribe: People, Land, and Place is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Special thanks: Jazz at Lincoln Center

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Paquito D’Rivera as child courtesy of the artist
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Los Sueños del Caribe (Dreams of the Caribbean): People, Land, and Place
Saturday, May 13 | 11 am–5 pm (Concert begins at 3 pm)
Today's performance is the culmination of a dynamic collaboration between musical legend Paquito D’Rivera and his acclaimed ensemble—Christopher Aschman (steel pan player), Alex Brown (piano), Zach Brown (bass), Carlos Cano (flute), Eric Doob (drums), James Schipp (mallets), Arturo Stable (percussion), Diego Urcola (trumpet/trombone); the many talented students, teachers, parents and leadership at the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music; and Museum scientists Ana Luz Porzecanski and Christopher Raxworthy, co-curators of the Museum’s ¡Cuba! exhibition.

The performers on stage have spent time at the Museum with scientists and educators, exploring the endemic fauna of the Caribbean—both living and extinct—including bats, birds, reptiles, primates, owls, and sloths. This process has inspired the artists to consider new ways of connecting nature and culture and to discover new connections to their shared heritage.

To enrich your experience at this event, please visit the Museum’s ¡Cuba! exhibition on the third floor.

Paquito D’Rivera’s international all-star band, joined by some of New York City’s very best young talent from the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, weave together a musical reflection on the natural sights, sounds, and traditions of the rich Caribbean tapestry. We invite you into today’s celebration of the island nations of Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and others through the distinctive synthesis of Afro-Cuban chants, sizzling salsa, classical moments, moving mambo, soulful blues, reflective poetry, and spontaneous improvisations!

Hosted by Rafael Pi Roman, MetroFocus, WNET/Thirteen.

POEMS FEATURED:

- My Caribbean Region by Gabrielle Feliciano — Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music
- Rio Grande de Loiza by Julia de Burgos — Puerto Rico
- Niagara by Jose Maria Heredia — Cuba
- The Negro Speaks of Rivers by Langston Hughes — USA