

CU ★ PRESENTS

# Thompson Latin Jazz Ensemble

Victor Mestas, director

*Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of  
the house manager.*

7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 5, 2020  
Grusin Music Hall  
Imig Music Building



College of Music  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS • 1920-2020

# Program

*To be selected from the following:*

Slowvisor

Eddie Palmieri

100 Años De Juventud

Jesús “Chucho” Valdés

To Wisdom The Prize

Larry Willis

Cafe

Egberto Gismonti

Loro

Egberto Gismonti

La Princesa

Oscar Hernández

Alma Libre

Oscar Hernández

Usted Abuso \*

Antonio Carlos and Jocaí

Asi Se Goza \*

Allan Phillips

*\* Special guest José Alberto Cabrera, singer and percussion*

# Program notes

**Jesús Valdés Rodríguez**, better known as **Chucho Valdés** (born Oct. 9, 1941), is a Cuban pianist, bandleader, composer and arranger whose career spans more than 50 years. An original member of the Orquesta Cubana de Música Moderna, in 1973 he founded the group Irakere, one of Cuba's best-known Latin jazz bands. Both his father, Bebo Valdés, and his son, Chuchito, are also pianists. He has won six Grammy Awards and three Latin Grammy Awards.

**Egberto Amin Gismonti** (born Dec. 5, 1947 in Carmo, Rio de Janeiro) is a Brazilian composer, guitarist and pianist with a career spanning five decades. The major phases are distinguished by record company, the ensemble format and the musical collaborators. The most important ensembles are his Brazilian group Academia de Danças, including Mauro Senise (saxophone and flutes), Zeca Assumpção (bass) and Nenê (Realcino Lima Filho, drums and percussion), the duo with Naná Vasconcelos (percussion) and the trio with Charlie Haden (bass) and Jan Garbarek (saxophone). *Dança das Cabeças*, the first ECM record, was nominated Album of the Year by Stereo Review and received the 1977 Großer Deutscher Schallplattenpreis.

**Eddie Palmieri** (born Dec. 15, 1936) is a Grammy Award-winning pianist, bandleader, musician and composer of Puerto Rican ancestry. He is the founder of the bands La Perfecta, La Perfecta II and Harlem River Drive. Palmieri's parents moved to New York from Ponce, Puerto Rico, in 1926, and settled in the South Bronx, a largely Hispanic neighborhood. There, he and his elder brother, Charlie, were born. He accompanied Charlie and participated in many talent contests when he was eight years old. Palmieri continued his education in the city's

public school system where he was constantly exposed to music, specifically jazz. He took piano lessons and performed at Carnegie Hall when he was 11 years old. His main influences were Thelonious Monk and McCoy Tyner. Inspired by his older brother, he was determined to someday form his own band—something he achieved in 1950, when he was fourteen years old. During the 1950s, Palmieri played in various bands, including Tito Rodríguez's.

## Personnel

**Victor Mestas**, pianist from Caracas, Venezuela. Endorsement artist for YAMAHA keyboards in Venezuela. Mestas has performed with renowned bands, including Guaco and Trabuco Venezolano, and he has also accompanied world renowned singers, including: Soledad Bravo, Cheo Feliciano, and Julio Iglesias. Since moving to Boulder, he's been performing on the Brazilian-Latin Jazz scene, as well as directing the Latin Jazz Ensemble at Thompson Jazz Studies Program, CU Boulder.

**José Alberto Cabrera**, vocalist from Caracas, Venezuela, started singing at the early age of 9 during middle school time. When reached 15 started to listen salsa for the first time and got hooked up with all the salsa movement of those years back in 1978. Has been the lead singer for several salsa bands in Denver as well as in an area of Orlando Florida.

## Thompson Latin Jazz Ensemble

Gareth Rader, trumpet and fluegelhorn  
Frankie Pineda, alto and tenor saxophone  
Josue Mundt, electric guitar  
Wyatt Walker, electric bass  
Brennen Oliver, drums  
Leo Muñoz Corona, percussion  
Victor Mestas Pérez, piano and conductor

# Upcoming performances

🎫 Ticketed events   📺 Live broadcast at [cupresents.org](http://cupresents.org)

**Saturday, March 7**

**Persevering Legacy**

2 p.m., Grusin Music Hall

**March 8-9**

**Takács Quartet**

Grusin Music Hall 🎫

**Tuesday, March 10**

**Faculty Tuesdays**

Geraldine Walther, viola

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

**Wednesday, March 11**

**Opera Brown Bag**

Noon, Fink Rehearsal Facility,

Imig Music Building

**Pendulum New Music**

Featuring B.A.D. Ensemble

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

**Thursday, March 12**

**Chamber Orchestra**

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

**March 13-15**

**Eklund Opera Program**

**The Marriage of Figaro**

Macky Auditorium 🎫

**Monday, March 16**

**Percussion Ensemble**

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

**Tuesday, March 17**

**Faculty Tuesdays**

Influences of Nadia Boulanger

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

**Wednesday, March 18**

**University Singers and University Choir**

7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church  
of Boulder

**Thursday, March 19**

**Artist Series**

**Kronos Quartet**

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 🎫

**Tuesday, March 31**

**Faculty Tuesdays**

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

**Saturday, April 4**

**Artist Series**

**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 🎫

*Events are subject to change:*

*call us at 303-492-8008 or visit us online at  
[cupresents.org](http://cupresents.org) to verify.*

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