MOSS /RTS CENTER

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 7:30 PM

DUETS— Dianne Reeves, Chucho Valdés, and Joe Lovano

Moss Arts Center Street and Davis Performance Hall Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre





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DUETS— Dianne Reeves, Chucho Valdés, and Joe Lovano

Duets is an evening of piano duets with three masters of jazz. Winner of six Grammy and three Latin Grammy Awards, the Cuban pianist, composer, and arranger Chucho Valdés is the most influential figure in modern Afro-Cuban jazz. Five-time Grammy Award winner Dianne Reeves is the pre-eminent jazz vocalist in the world today—her arsenal of talents is richly on display in each and every song of her limitless repertoire. Hailed by the *New York Times* as "one of the greatest musicians in jazz history," Grammy Award-winning saxophone titan Joe Lovano has distinguished himself as a prescient and pathfinding force in the arena of creative music.

Presented in partnership with the Black Cultural Center, Ujima Living-Learning Community, and Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Don and Libby Drapeau, Dr. James M. Shuler and Ms. Margaret F. Shuler, and Mr. Edwin H. Talley and Mrs. Melinda P. Talley.

Biographies



CHUCHO VALDÉS, piano

Winner of six Grammy and three Latin Grammy Awards, the Cuban pianist, composer, and arranger Chucho Valdés is the most influential figure in modern Afro-Cuban jazz.

A protean performer, as comfortable offering solo performances as leading small and large ensembles, his most recent project, *Jazz Batá* 2, is an exceptional work in which he revisits an idea he first explored in 1972: a piano jazz trio featuring batá drums in place of the

conventional trap set. The batá are the sacred, hourglass shaped drums used in the ritual music of the Yoruba religion, better known as Santeria. Released on November 16, 2018, *Jazz Batá 2* marks Valdés' debut on Mack Avenue Records.

It was a momentous month in a year marked by several tributes to his work and his extraordinary career. A few days earlier, on November 13, Valdés received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Science in a ceremony held during Latin Grammy week in Las Vegas. Valdés was also inducted in the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame, and received a DC Jazz Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, his name joining an illustrious list that includes Kenny Barron, James Moody, Ellis Marsalis, George Wein, and Dave Brubeck. Valdés also enjoyed another type of honor, personally satisfying as pianist and performer, as he debuted in the historic Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow that March.

Finally, in August, Valdés and pianist, composer, and educator Rebeca Mauleón presented *Decoding Afro-Cuban Jazz: The Music of Chucho Valdés & Irakere* (213 pages, Sher Music Co.). This tome includes an overview of Cuban music, biographical information, and a history of Chucho's Irakere, a band that, with its bold fusion of Afro-Cuban ritual music, popular Afro-Cuban music styles, jazz, and rock, marked a before and after in Latin jazz. The book also includes lead sheets of 11 of Valdés' most notable compositions, including classics such as *Misa Negra, Mambo Influenciado,* and *Bacalao Con Pan,* as well as a glossary of terms and Afro-Cuban rhythms.

A very active performer, in early 2018 Valdés completed a two-year tour with *Trance*, a two-piano duo project. *Trance* represented a dramatic change of sound for Valdés, as it followed the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the birth of Irakere, a group that for all intents and purposes suggested

a small big band. The extensive tour was highlighted by a live recording, *Tribute to Irakere: Live at Marciac* (Jazz Village/Comanche Music), which won a Grammy for the Best Latin Jazz Album in 2016.

Born in a family of musicians in Quivicán, Havana province, Cuba, on October 9, 1941, Dionisio Jesús "Chucho" Valdés Rodríguez has distilled elements of the Afro-Cuban music tradition, jazz, classical music, rock, and more into an organic, personal style that has both a distinct style and substance.

His first teacher was his father, the great pianist, composer, and bandleader Ramón "Bebo" Valdés. By the age of three, Chucho was already playing the melodies he heard on the radio at the piano, using both hands and in any key. He began taking lessons on piano, theory, and solfége at the age of five and continued his formal musical education at the Conservatorio Municipal de Música de la Habana, from which he graduated at age 14. A year later, he formed his first jazz trio and in 1959 he debuted with the orchestra Sabor de Cuba, directed by his father. Sabor de Cuba is considered one of the great orchestras in modern Cuban music history.

As it turns out, Chucho Valdés is perhaps best known as the founder, pianist, and main composer and arranger of yet another landmark ensemble in Cuban music: Irakere (1973-2005). Not well known outside Cuba, Irakere was discovered by Dizzy Gillespie, who was visiting Havana on a jazz cruise in 1977. The following year, producer Bruce Lundvall, then president of CBS, went to Cuba on Gillespie's advice, heard the band live, and signed it on the spot.

The same year Irakere debuted, unannounced, as "surprise guests" at Carnegie Hall as part of the Newport Jazz Festival. Selections from that performance were later included in *Irakere* (CBS), the band's debut recording in the United States. The album won a Grammy as Best Latin Recording in 1979. That original band featured future global jazz stars such as Paquito D'Rivera and Arturo Sandoval, but over its rich, long life, Irakere became a rolling university of Afro-Cuban music, while also featuring influential musicians such as the late Miguel "Angá" Díaz, Jose Luis Cortés (who would later found NG La Banda), and Germán Velazco. Valdés stayed with Irakere until 2005.

Through the many changes the band experienced over the years, Valdés remained the one, essential constant. But Irakere's success had its personal costs, as his talent as a pianist was largely obscured by his responsibilities as a leader. In 1998—having won his second Grammy the previous year for *Habana* (Verve), this time as a member of trumpeter Roy Hargrove's group,

Biographies (continued)

CHUCHO VALDÉS, continued

Crisol—Valdés launched a parallel career as a solo player and small-group leader.

An enormously fruitful period followed, highlighted by Blue Note albums such as Solo Piano (1991), Solo: Live in New York (2001), and New Conceptions (2003), as well as quartet recordings such as Bele Bele en La Habana (1998), Briyumba Palo Congo (1999), and Live at the Village Vanguard (2000), which won a Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album.

Valdés also won Grammys for *Juntos Para Siempre* (Calle 54, 2007), the duet recording with his father, Bebo; and for Chucho's *Steps* (Comanche, 2010), which introduced his new group, the Afro-Cuban Messengers.



DIANNE REEVES, vocals

Five-time Grammy winner Dianne Reeves is the pre-eminent jazz vocalist in the world. As a result of her breathtaking virtuosity, improvisational prowess, and unique jazz and R&B stylings, Reeves received the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for three consecutive recordings—a Grammy first in any vocal category.

Featured in George Clooney's six-time Academy Award-nominated *Good Night, and Good Luck,* Reeves won the Best Jazz Vocal

Grammy for the film's soundtrack.

Reeves has recorded and performed with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She has also recorded with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim and was a featured soloist with Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic. Reeves was the first creative chair for Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the first singer to ever perform at the famed Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Reeves worked with legendary producer Arif Mardin (Norah Jones, Aretha Franklin) on the Grammy-winning A Little Moonlight, an intimate collection of standards featuring her touring trio. When Reeves' holiday collection Christmas Time Is Here was released, Ben Ratliff of the New York Times raved, "Ms. Reeves, a jazz singer of frequently astonishing skill, takes the

assignment seriously; this is one of the best jazz Christmas CDs I've heard."

In recent years Reeves has toured the world in a variety of contexts, including *Sing the Truth,* a musical celebration of Nina Simone, which also featured Liz Wright and Angélique Kidjo. She performed at the White House on multiple occasions, including President Obama's State Dinner for the President of China, as well as the Governors' Ball.

Reeves' most recent release, *Beautiful Life*, features Gregory Porter, Robert Glasper, Lalah Hathaway, and Esperanza Spalding. Produced by Terri Lyne Carrington, *Beautiful Life* won the 2015 Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance. Reeves is the recipient of honorary doctorates from the Berklee College of Music and the Juilliard School. In 2018 the National Endowment for the Arts designated Reeves a Jazz Master—the highest honor the United States bestows on jazz artists.



JOE LOVANO, saxophone

Grammy-winning saxophonist, composer, and producer Joe Lovano is fearless in finding new modes of artistic expression. With a Grammy win for his 52nd Street Themes and 14 other nominations, he has won DownBeat Magazine's Critics and Readers Polls countless times as Tenor Saxophonist, Musician of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year, and Triple Crowns from DownBeat. He has also received numerous awards from Jazz Times and the Jazz Journalists Association for Tenor Saxophone,

Album of the Year, and Musician of the Year.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, on December 29, 1952, Lovano attended the famed Berklee College of Music in Boston, where years later he was awarded an honorary doctorate. Since 2001 he has held the Gary Burton Chair in Jazz Performance and is a founding faculty member since 2009 of the Global Jazz Institute at Berklee, directed by Danilo Pérez. He is a guest lecturer at New York University's jazz program, Juilliard, and Manhattan School of Music, as well as clinician at universities around the globe.

From 1991 through 2016, Lovano released an unprecedented 25 records as a leader for the historic Blue Note Records. *Joe Lovano Quartet: Classic! Live at Newport* featuring Hank Jones was recorded in 2005 and released

Biographies (continued)

JOE LOVANO, continued

in 2016 to critical acclaim. In 2019 Lovano released his debut album as a bandleader on ECM Records, *Trio Tapestry*, with Marilyn Crispell and Carmen Castaldi. Over the next few years, Lovano saw the release of three additional ECM Records albums: *ROMA*, a collaboration with Enrico Rava; *Arctic Riff*, a special guest appearance with the Marcin Wasilewski Trio; and the sophomore release from Lovano's Trio Tapestry, *Gardens of Expression*. Most recently, Lovano released his third album with Sound Prints, a quintet he co-leads with trumpeter Dave Douglas.

In addition, composer Mark Anthony Turnage wrote a Concerto for Saxophone and Chamber Orchestra for Lovano called *A Man Descending*, which has been performed globally, and Maestro Michael Abene orchestrated an album of all-Lovano originals called *Symphonica* for the WDR Symphonic Orchestra and Big Band, which was released on Blue Note and received a Grammy nomination.

Lovano has performed and recorded with a long list of jazz greats, including Woody Herman, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Mel Lewis, Bob Brookmeyer, Paul Motian, Bill Frisell, Tony Bennett, Abbey Lincoln, Charlie Haden, John Scofield, Gunther Schuller, Elvin Jones, McCoy Tyner, Ed Blackwell, Herbie Hancock, Dave Holland, Hank Jones, Dave Liebman, Michael Brecker, Dave Douglas, Judi Silvano, Ravi Coltrane, Chucho Valdés, Ornette Coleman, Diana Krall, and many others. Lovano has created an extensive body of work for his own ensembles, including strings, woodwinds, his horn-rich Nonet, the Classic Quartet, Trio Tapestry, and more.

Lovano continues to explore new horizons within the world of music as a soloist, bandleader, and composer.

This is the first performance at the Moss Arts Center for Valdés, Reeves, and Lovano.

Tell Us What You Think!

We'd love your feedback on this performance. And, if you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to see Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet on Thursday, October 28, 2021



https://bit.ly/duets-feedback

Engagement Events

Wednesday, September 29, 2021 A CONVERSATION WITH CHUCHO VALDÉS

Cuban-born Grammy Award winner Chucho Valdés discussed his approach to the piano and answered audience questions. Moderated by Joseph L. Scarpaci, executive director, Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy

Special thanks to Black Cultural Center, Ujima, Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy, Kimberly D. Clark-Shaw, Jason Crafton, Dalayna Gardner, Kyle Hutchins, Joseph L. Scarpaci, and Veronica Montes

Go Deeper

Listen for call-and-response between the musicians in each duet. How do Valdés, Reeves, and Lovano experiment in the "dialogue" between their respective instruments?

In the Galleries



SHEILA PREE BRIGHT: A BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE Through Saturday, November 20, 2021 Ruth C. Horton Gallery

ONLINE EVENT

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 6 PM ARTIST TALK: Sheila Pree Bright Free; registration required Approximately 30 minutes Moderated by Brian Holcombe, Moss Arts Center curator bit.ly/artist-talk-pree-bright

Based in Atlanta, acclaimed fine art photographer Sheila Pree Bright chronicles in stark, honest, and moving images the gatherings of recent years in protest of police violence and sociopolitical inequities. Presented in this exhibition are large-scale photographs that poignantly portray the responses to police shootings in Atlanta; Ferguson; Baltimore; Washington, D.C.; and Baton Rouge. Images of upper middle class suburban communities are interspersed throughout to counter preconceived stereotypes. Also featured in this exhibition is a new work commissioned by the Moss Arts Center.

GALLERY HOURS

Wednesday-Friday, 10 AM-5 PM Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu.

▲ The People's Uprising, Justice for Breonna Taylor, protesting the decision by the Kentucky grand jury to indict former officers in connection to the shooting death of Breonna Taylor, Atlanta, GA, 2020, (detail) Digital print 24 x 36 inches

Land Acknowledgement

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that legislation and practices like the Morrill Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands, both locally and in western territories.

We understand that honoring Native Peoples without explicit material commitments falls short of our institutional responsibilities. Through sustained, transparent, and meaningful engagement with the Tutelo/ Monacan Peoples and other Native Nations, we commit to changing the trajectory of Virginia Tech's history by increasing Indigenous student, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention, diversifying course offerings, and meeting the growing needs of all Virginia tribes and supporting their sovereignty.

We must also recognize that enslaved Black people generated revenue and resources used to establish Virginia Tech and were prohibited from attending until 1953. Through InclusiveVT, the institutional and individual commitment to *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence, we commit to advancing a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

Health and Wellness

The Moss Arts Center adheres to the guidelines of the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Tech in its operations, including protocols for distancing, face coverings, and cleaning and sanitation. Our status may change according to changes in university operating procedures. Find the most up to date information at **artscenter.vt.edu/visit**.

We ask patrons to do their part in keeping our community healthy. If you feel unwell, please stay home.

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at Christiansburg Recreation Center 1600 N. Franklin St, Christiansburg

The Y Craft Fair is back in person this year!

Artists are invited to apply for our Craft Fair. Information on how to participate and application form available at this link: www.vtymca.org/y-craft-fair/

THIS YEAR THE ANNUAL Y BOOK FAIR WILL BE PART OF OUR CRAFT FAIR.

WELCOMING WEEK

The 1st annual Y Welcoming Week just ended and was a great success. We enjoyed meeting so many members of our diverse community and we hope we were able to share the message #AllAreWelcomeHere. Thanks to our amazing partners who worked with us to plan such a great week of activities. Town of Blacksburg: Literacy Volunteers of the NRV: Blacksburg Library: Blacksburg Museum



Now available-Welcoming Week t-shirts! Visit our website to purchase! www.vtymca.org

The YMCA at Virginia Tech began in 1873 and served as an integral part of the university during its early years until the mid 1960's .

From that cornerstone came the building we know today as the home for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. From 1899 until we moved to Squires Student Center, this was the Y and the center of campus.



In 1899, VT students' families, alumni, and friends gathered resources to lay the cornerstone for the Y's first building. The Y created and promoted Hokie Stone as an architectural tradition & standard (the first building with Hokie Stone)

In 1972 the Y donated the building to Virginia Tech for its bicenennial.





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