



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

# University of North Texas College of Music

Ensemble Recital | Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 7:30 pm | Winspear Hall

## Texas Percussive Arts Society Chapter DAY OF PERCUSSION

**UNT Percussion Ensemble • Dave Hall, Director**  
**UNT Latin Jazz Lab • José M. Aponte, Director**  
**with Guest Artists Paoli Mejías & Gregg Bissonette**

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Derivative (2022) .....	Jlin (b. 1987)
Obscure (2022) .....	Jlin
Etched in Sand (2013) .....	Nina Young (b. 1984)
Pillar VII (2021) .....	Andy Akiho (b. 1979)
Liminality (2019) .....	Dave Hall (b. 1983)

### UNT Percussion Ensemble

Megan Campbell, Jacob Fullinwider, Luke Gibson,  
Emma Kieselhorst, Raina Liao, Sophia Lo, Matt Noll,  
Nathan Siegel, Denton Sutherlin, Graham Viegut,  
Maddie Wallace, George Warner, Daisy Waters

Caravan (1937) .....	Juan Tizol/Duke Ellington (Afro Cuban Jazz) (1900–1984)/(1899–1974) arr. Michael League
Star Eyes (1943) .....	Gene de Paul/Don Raye (Bomba/Mambo/Jazz) (1919–1988)/(1909–1985) arr. Simeon Davis
They Call Me Mister Mambo (2016) .....	Scott Lavender (bl 1953) (Cha-Cha-Chá/Mambo Jazz)

Salmontology (2021) ..... Agustín Alonso (b. 1994)  
(Timba Jazz)

Suavena (2013) ..... Francisco "Pirulo" Rosado (b. 1977)  
(Funky Cha-Cha Son/Jazz) arr. Josh Busby

Late Night Mambo (2013) ..... Tyler J. Mire (b. 1991)  
(Mambo/Jazz) adapt. Toshi Clinch

### **UNT Latin Jazz Lab featuring Paoli Mejías**

#### Saxophones

Lead Alto: Nigel Reagan — Hartford, CT

Alto II: Christian Mojica — Dallas, TX

Tenor I: Tito Charneco — Guayanilla, Puerto Rico

Tenor I (Seat Sub): Isaac Jacinto — Frisco, TX

Tenor II: Michael Petty — Frederick, MD

Baritone: Aidan Sears — Redondo Beach, CA

#### Trumpets

Lead Trumpet: Alejandro Muñoz — El Paso, TX

Trumpet II: Garrett DeRudder — Wylie, TX

Trumpet III: Leland Rossi — San José, CA

Trumpet IV: Cristina Smith — Alma, MI

Trumpet V: Richard Cruz — Houston, TX

#### Trombones

Lead Trombone: Nicholas Mailes — Joplin, MO

Trombone II: John Timmins — Tampa, FL

Trombone III: Josh Busby — Sherwood, OR

Trombone IV: Ian Hodson-McGuire — Lynchburg, VA

#### Rhythm Section

Congas (Section Leader): Isaac LaVigne — Chicago, IL

Timbal: Jeffery Chaidez — Houston, TX

Bongó: Jackson Beebee — Natick, MA

Drumset: Aramís Fernández — Hialeah, FL

Piano: Isaiah Nygard — Kutztown, PA

Guitar: Keita Onuma — Yokosuka, Japan

Bass: Ricardo Puche Bravo — Maracaibo, Venezuela

#### Teaching Fellow

Tito Charneco — Guayanilla, Puerto Rico

Performing for more than 25 years, Latin Grammy nominee **Paoli Mejías** has already distinguished himself as a young master percussionist and is ranked among the best in both salsa and Latin jazz. Paoli is now at the vanguard of Latin jazz as leader of his own Quintet, having produced a live performance released on Blu-ray "DE JAZZAMBIA A MI TAMBOR EL CONCIERTO" (2011) and three successful CDs as band leader: "JAZZAMBIA"(2008), "Transcend" (2006) and "Mi Tambor" (2004) which received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Latin Jazz Album.

Born March 7, 1970 in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, percussionist Paoli Mejías' rise to Latin jazz fame is a story of sweat and dedication. Completely self taught, Paoli purchased his first set of congas at age twelve, inspired by records of conga great Carlos "Patato" Valdes and Latin jazz innovators Batacumbele and Irakere. Learning by imitating the sounds he heard on the records, Paoli taught himself the language of the congas without the benefit of an instructor. By his mid-to-late teens, he could be found at jam sessions in the streets and on the beaches of San Juan. He earned invitations from bandleaders like Rafú Warner, José Nogueras, Glen Monroig and Charlie Sepúlveda. As he worked his way up the live music food chain in Puerto Rico, Paoli found himself performing alongside the Latin jazz legends who had inspired him in his early years.

Paoli's résumé includes top jazz and salsa artists like Tito Puente, Dave Samuels, Dave Valentín, Paquito d'Rivera, Chick Corea, David Sánchez and Danilo Pérez, who all have called on Paoli for his unique blend of melodic sensitivity and blinding technique. As Puerto Rico's first-call conguero, Paoli has performed and recorded with artists like Luis Enrique, Marc Anthony, La India, Tito Puente, Seis del Solar, and Eddie Palmieri with whom he toured the largest jazz festivals for more than a decade. Paoli's discography as side-man includes more than 20 commercial recordings, among them Grammy nominated "Acuarela de Tambores" by Alex Acuña, and Grammy Award winner "Masterpiece" by Eddie Palmieri and Tito Puente.

Paoli made his successful debut as a bandleader in 2004 with his self-produced record "Mi Tambor" which received a Latin Grammy nomination for Best Latin Jazz Album in 2005. As a bandleader Paoli fuses straight-ahead jazz with African, Mediterranean and Caribbean folkloric rhythms to create a new dimension of Latin jazz that is global, energetic, and modern. Showered with positive press and accolades from the worldwide jazz community, Paoli's transition from sideman to focal point was explosive. His 2006 follow-up release "Transcend" features some of the New York Latin jazz scene's finest: Miguel Zenón, Antonio Sánchez, Luis Perdomo, Jaleel Shaw, Hans Glawischnig, and Tony Escapa, all of whom also recorded on his 3rd CD "JAZZAMBIA" released in 2008.

Consistently, each and every review acclaims his ability to fill a venue with his charisma and energetic Afro-Caribbean rhythms bringing the public to their feet. Complimented by the best jazz musicians, Paoli's Quintet is creating a new style of Latin Jazz that goes above and beyond the genre in the traditional sense, incorporating unexpected elements of Asian, Greek, Flamenco, and African influences. The result is intriguing and exhilarating; the public becomes enveloped in the tight ensemble's passion for music that is a delight to hear, and remarkable to witness in a live setting.

An experienced educator and clinician, Paoli is resident artist at the Conservatorio de Musica de Puerto Rico since January 2010, and at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington since 2012. Paoli has given masterclasses at the Montreal Percussion Festival, University of Washington, University of New Mexico, Cal State University, "El Batey" Puerto Rican Cultural Center of Chicago, and World Percussion Festival in Seattle among others; Paoli was also named an honorary member of FITA (Festival Internacional de Tradiciones AfroAmericanas) in Venezuela.

His latest project "PAOLI MEJIAS DE JAZZAMBIA A MI TAMBOR EL CONCIERTO" released on Blu-ray in the fall of 2011, is a concert of Paoli performing with the best musicians in Puerto Rico many songs from his 3 CDs, and new songs he has written. This live recording is a captivating musical journey of Paoli's evolution as musician, bandleader, and composer. Paoli documents a historical moment in Latin jazz, celebrating the diversity of his Puerto Rican heritage and showcasing the rich talent of the new generation of musicians in Puerto Rico.

In September of 2013 Paoli received the honor of being invited by Carlos Santana to join the legendary Santana band. While not touring with Santana, Paoli continues to work on his own creative projects.

