

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **A CUBAN NIGHT AT MOLAA THE ARSENIO RODRIGUEZ PROJECT**

*"If you loved the music of Buena Vista Social Club, You will definitely enjoy  
The Arsenio Rodriguez Project" Tom Schnabel, KCRW 89.9FM, Los Angeles*

## **LAS ESTRELLAS DE ARSENIO 'A TRIBUTE TO EL MARAVILLOSO'**

**Friday, June 21, 8p.m. at MOLAA**

**Vesper Public Relations. Hollywood, CA– April 29, 2013.** **LAS ESTRELLAS DE ARSENIO**, is an All-Star ensemble of today's top LA and NY musicians, who came together for the first time in 2011, to pay tribute to Arsenio Rodriguez, the Father of Salsa, on his 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Now, for the first time on the West Coast, you can enjoy these talented artists at **The Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA), on Friday, June 21, at 8:00 PM.**

Tickets are available at MOLAA, located at 628 Los Alamitos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 by calling (562) 437-1689 or at [www.molaa.org](http://www.molaa.org)

**More Information:** [www.facebook.com/TheArsenioRodriguezProject](http://www.facebook.com/TheArsenioRodriguezProject)

**ARSENIO RODRIGUEZ**, a descendent of enslaved Congolese, was born on August 30, 1911, in Matanzas, Cuba. Arsenio was blinded by a horse's kick at age 7, which earned him the nickname "El Ciego Maravilloso" (The Marvelous Blind One.) Rodriguez was a prolific composer and arranger, who wrote and recorded nearly a thousand songs; many of them major salsa hits even today.

Considered by many to be the creator of the "Mambo", he was also the architect of the "Conjunto." The Conjunto is a revolutionary format that introduces the conga drum, a taboo at the time, because of its African origins. As composer, tresero, percussionist and bandleader, Arsenio's innovations paved the way for what would eventually morph into "SALSA," as we know it today. He lived to be one of the most important figures in the history of Afro-Cuban music.

### **LAS ESTRELLAS:**

Afro-Cuban jazz trumpeter **ALFREDO "CHOCOLATE" ARMENTEROS**, one of the few surviving band-members of the ARSENIO RODRIGUEZ CONJUNTO, was born on April 4, 1928, in Santa Clara, Cuba. Chocolate has played with numerous music legends over the years, such as Benny More, Tito Puente, Wynton Marsalis, Eddie and Charlie Palmieri, Dizzy Gillespie, just to name a few, and is considered to be one of the best improvisers and interpreters of Latin music. Chocolate is one of the last musical links between the Golden era of the Cuban "Son" and contemporary Salsa music. With his passion, his natural talent, and subtle, yet elegant simplicity on the trumpet, he has "quietly" earned his place in the pantheon of Afro-Cuban Music Greats.

**JOSE MANGUAL JR.**, is a “Nuyorican” percussionist, vocalist, arranger, and songwriter and band leader, born January 1948, in Spanish Harlem, NY, the son of the innovative and pioneering bongo player Jose Mangual Sr., of the legendary MACHITO AND HIS AFROCUBANS ORCHESTRA. By the age of fifteen, José Mangual Jr. was already playing in local groups in New York, showcasing his talent as a percussionist, and vocalist with Hector Lavoe and Willie Colon’s orchestra. His skills as a percussionist and musical director were sought out by the likes of Juan Luis Guerra, Ruben Blades, Hector Lavoe, Herb Alpert, Dizzy Gillespie, David Byrne, Celia Cruz, Mario Bauza, and Mongo Santamaria, among others.

**NELSON GONZALEZ**, born in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, is distinguished for his mastery of the Cuban Tres guitar. This traditional instrument is indispensable to the interpretation of 'Son', the most popular form of Cuban dance music. His love of Afro-Caribbean music developed at an early age and was nurtured in New York City, where he immigrated in the early 1970's. Essential to Nelson Gonzalez' development was musicologist Rene Lopez, who taught Nelson the fundamentals and history of Cuban music.

The genius of Arsenio Rodriguez and 'El Nino' Rivera, and the 'Descarga' of Israel Lopez Cachao, strongly influenced Nelson's music style and skill in incorporating the Tres into the rhythm and the beat of the drums.

**The All-Star Ensemble also features the following artists:**

José Caridad Perico Hernández, (Conjunto Casino, Caravana Cubana)  
Jorge Pérez, (Buena Vista Social Club)  
Alberto Salas, (Cachao, Cuba LA)  
Luis Eric, (Cachao, Cuba LA)  
Alberto Tamayo, (Opus 13)  
Santiago Santioste, (Cabaret Tropicana, Mayra Caridad Valdés)  
Luis Alberto Ortega (Aramis Galindo)

For tickets or more information on this performance at MOLAA, call (562) 437-1689 or log on to [www.molaa.org](http://www.molaa.org)

This event is sponsored in part by:

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### Calendar listing

Event: A Cuban Night at MOLAA  
The Arsenio Rodríguez Project  
Las Estrellas de Arsenio  
A Tribute to El Maravilloso

Place: The Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA)  
628 Los Alamitos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802

Date: Friday, June 21, 2013, 8:00 PM

Ticket Information: Tickets are available only at MOLAA' Ticket Office at [www.molaa.org](http://www.molaa.org) or by calling (562) 437-1689

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