

# Jazz Beyond Borders

## For Immediate Release:

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Cesar Orozco & Kamarata Jazz  
Wednesday, May 20, 2015  
8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.  
Blues Alley 202-337-4141  
1073 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20007  
\$25 cover charge + \$12 food-and-drink minimum

## CUBAN-VENEZUELAN PIANIST IGNITES THE STAGE

With an ensemble of phenomenal musicians, Cuban/Venezuelan pianist César Orozco sets the stage on fire with exuberant Latin rhythms. Join him as he performs music from the award-winning recording *Orozcojam* and previews tunes from his upcoming album *No Limits for Tumbao*. Orozco fuses jazz with Cuban and Venezuelan musical styles in unexpected ways that fans in North and South America find irresistible.

César Orozco is a prolific pianist, composer and arranger. Leonardo Bigott writes in the Caracas magazine *Ladosis*, "His refined technique and unbridled passion... establish the pianist and composer as one of the most important in Venezuela," contributing "infallible Cuban-Venezuelan musicality...and a muscular Latin jazz."

Born in Cuba in 1980, Orozco moved to Venezuela in 1998. He has toured extensively and performed and recorded with numerous international artists. He moved to the States in 2012 to complete a Graduate Performance Diploma (GPD) in jazz piano at Peabody Institute. He also holds a degree in violin performance and ensemble conducting from the National School of Arts in Havana, Cuba.

Orozco has been a guest artist on more than 50 recordings and produced two other albums with César Orozco & Kamarata Jazz: *Son Con Pajarillo* (2007) and *Orozcojam* (2010). The latter received four nominations and was awarded Best Vocal-Instrumental Album at Cubadisco 2012, the most important event of the Cuban recording industry.

Four stellar Latin American musicians join Orozco on the stage at Blues Alley. Electric bassist **Rodner Padilla** has performed with many important Venezuelan and international artists. Padilla won a 2011 Latin Grammy for the *Treasures of the Venezuelan Music* with Venezuelan artist Ilan Chester, in the category Best Folklorico Album. He also won The Joropo International Tournament in Villavicencio, Colombia, in the category of Best Ensemble New Format with C4 Trio as well as Best Bassist. As a youth, drummer **Pablo Bencid** studied cello, Venezuelan cuatro, flute, and Afro-Venezuelan percussion. He graduated (cum laude) from Berklee College of Music with a degree in drum performance.

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Since then he has performed and recorded worldwide and has mastered a variety of styles such as Latin Jazz, Jazz, Latino, Afro-Venezuelan Rhythms, Brazilian, World Music, Funk and Rock. Bencid performs with a variety of world artists and ensembles.

Venezuelan percussionist **Francisco Vielma** is another Berklee graduate. In 1999, while a member of the Orchestral Symphonic System in Merida, Vielma traveled to research the African-descended music of three states of Venezuela. He has been involved in recording projects and tours in Venezuela, Mexico, and South Korea with renowned Venezuelan musicians. He also taught percussion, harmony and ensembles at Taller de Jazz Caracas from 2005-2010. In the USA, Francisco played with Grammy winning Paul Winter Consort, Javier Limon, Victor Mendoza, Luis Enrique and Eguie Castrillo. He has toured with Occidental Gypsy, released two albums and co-produced others.

Saxophonist **Antonio Orta**, a native of Puerto Rico, has freelanced in San Juan, Dallas, Miami, and Washington, D.C. He has performed with the likes of Jimmy Heath, Poncho Sanchez, Ignacio Berroa, David Liebman, Bob Mintzer, Paquito d' Rivera and Joe Lovano. As lead alto player of The U.S. Army Blues, he has accompanied many well-known jazz artists such as Randy Brecker, John Clayton, Freddie Cole, Buddy DeFranco, Vince DiMartino, Slide Hampton, Conrad Herwig, Joe Morello, Chris Potter, Chuck Redd and Terrell Stafford. Orta holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas and a master's from the University of Miami.

Two shows, at 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., take place at the famed Blues Alley jazz club in Georgetown, at 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007. Tickets are \$25 and may be ordered in advance at [www.bluesalley.com](http://www.bluesalley.com) or by calling 202-337-4141. The club charges a \$12 food-and-drink minimum per person, per show. Blues Alley is a "listening club" and asks patrons to keep conversation to a minimum during the performances.