

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Next at McCarter

CUBAN JAZZ FROM PIANIST ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ
and a '60s CELEBRATION WITH *SONGS OF FREEDOM*

ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ, piano – Saturday, October 21 at 8 p.m.



Alfredo Rodriguez. Photo by Anna Webber.

Alfredo Rodriguez's performance style calls up images of Tatum, Jarrett, Monk, and Evans. Rodriguez moved to Los Angeles from Havana in 2009, taking a suitcase filled with music, a sweater, a pair of jeans, and nothing else. In 2014's *The Invasion Parade*, he revisited various Cuban musical traditions. And in his latest, the Grammy-nominated *Tocororo* (2015), his story is represented by the national bird of Cuba, which if caged, dies of sadness. In this case, the bird represents the cross-pollination of his Cuban culture with the others he's experienced through his musical journey.

SONGS OF FREEDOM – Sunday, October 22 at 3 p.m.

Celebrating the Songs of Joni Mitchell, Abbey Lincoln, and Nina Simone



(l-r) Ulysses Owens, Jr.; Theo Bleckmann, Alicia Olatuja, and Jazzmeia Horn.

In the 1960s, three legendary and prolific vocalists made an indelible mark in music through their songs, each expressing freedom in various ways. **Joni Mitchell** composed and sang about the freedom of love; **Abbey Lincoln** expressed freedom of her individuality and race through her lyricism; and **Nina Simone** demanded freedom politically through song. Their contributions will be interpreted for us by three contemporary singers: **Theo Bleckmann**, **Alicia Olatuja**, and **Jazzmeia Horn**, all under the musical direction of the Grammy-winning drummer **Ulysses Owens Jr.**

Grammy-nominated singer and composer Theo Beckmann's CDs include albums of Las Vegas standards, popular "bar songs," and songs of Kate Bush, while *The New York Times* has called Olatuja's voice "a special instrument, with full-bodied tone, precise pitch, and personal engagement at the lowest whisper or highest wail." Jazzmeia Horn is the winner of the 2015 Thelonious Monk Vocal Jazz Competition and NJPAC's Sarah Vaughan Competition in 2013, and is a rising star in the world of jazz.

Ticket Information

Alfredo Rodriguez will appear in the Berlind Theatre on Saturday, October 21 at 8 p.m. Single tickets are \$56.00 and can be purchased online at mccarter.org, by phone at 609.258.2787, or in person at the McCarter Ticket Office at 91 University Place in Princeton.

Songs of Freedom will be presented in McCarter's Berlind Theatre on Sunday, October 22 at 3 p.m. Single tickets are \$68.00 and can be purchased online at mccarter.org, by phone at 609.258.2787, or in person at the McCarter Ticket Office at 91 University Place in Princeton.

ABOUT McCARTER THEATRE CENTER

Thanks to the efforts of Special Programming Director William W. Lockwood, McCarter Theatre Center is a premier presenter of artists renowned around the world and across genres as varied as dance, classical, pop, jazz, performance art, comedy, magic, children's theatre, and more.

McCarter is supported by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Princeton University, and over 2,000 individuals, corporations, community leaders, and foundations. For more info visit mccarter.org.

The 2017-2018 McCarter Signature Series is sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

For further inquiries and more information, contact: Tom Miller, Director of Public Relations tmiller@mccarter.org or 609.258.6524.

McCarter Theatre Center is at 91 University Place, Princeton, NJ 08540 | mccarter.org

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