



Courtesy Papo Vázquez



Courtesy Sofia Rei

Papo Vázquez Mighty Pirates Troubadours & Sofia Rei

Papo Vázquez Mighty Pirates Troubadours

Trombone, Leader **Papo Vázquez**

Tenor Saxophone **Willie Williams**

Piano **Rick Germanson**

Bass **Ariel Robles**

Drums **Alvester Garnett**

Percussion **Carlos Maldonado**

Percussion **Gabriel Lugo**

Sofia Rei

Vocals, Charango **Sofia Rei**

Trumpet **Josh Deutsch**

Guitar **Eric Kurimski**

Guitar **JC Maillard**

Upright bass **Jorge Roeder**

Drums, Percussion **Franco Pinna**

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.



Saturday, December 5 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Papo Vázquez will be performing a selection of music including songs from his most recent album, *Spirit Warrior*.

Sofia Rei will be performing original songs from her latest album *De Tierra Y Oro*, as well as new songs she has composed for her upcoming album.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Papo Vázquez (Trombonist, composer and arranger) has a 40-year career spanning jazz, Latin, Afro-Caribbean and classical music and recordings. He was born in 1958 in Philadelphia. After spending his early years in Puerto Rico, he grew up in the heart of North Philadelphia's Puerto Rican community. At the age of 15, Vázquez was performing with local Latin bands. At only 17, he moved to New York and was hired to play for trumpet player Chocolate Armenteros. Soon after, he began playing and recording with top artists in the salsa scene like The Fania All-Stars, Ray Barretto, Willie Colón, Larry Harlow and Hector La Voe. Vázquez became a key player in New York's burgeoning Latin jazz scene of the late 1970s. He began studying with Slide Hampton, eventually recording and performing for Slide Hampton's *World of Trombones*. Vázquez went on to perform with jazz luminaries Tito Puente, Dizzy Gillespie, Frank Foster, Mel Lewis and Hilton Ruiz, and to tour Europe with The Ray Charles Orchestra. By the age of 22, Vázquez had traveled the globe. He was a founding member of Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band and Conjunto Libre, as well as Puerto Rico's popular Latin fusion band Batacumbele. He performed and recorded several albums with Batacumbele from 1981 to 1985. Upon his return to New York, he joined Tito Puente's Latin Jazz Ensemble, traveling with them as principal trombonist, and toured Europe with Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Orchestra.

Vázquez has always been deeply moved by jazz, and specifically cites the music of John Coltrane and J.J. Johnson as having most influenced him. His appreciation and knowledge of the indigenous music of the Caribbean provides him with a unique ability to fuse Afro-Caribbean rhythms, specifically those from Puerto Rico, with the freer melodic and harmonic elements of progressive jazz.

During his time in Puerto Rico with Batacumbele, he began to experiment with "bomba jazz," a mixture of jazz and traditional Puerto Rican bomba. In 1993, he recorded his first album as a leader, *Breakout*. He continued collaborating with a variety of Latin jazz artists, contributing "Overtime Mambo" to Hilton Ruiz's *Manhattan Mambo and Contra Mar y Mareo Descarga Boricua, Vol. 1*. Interest in Vázquez as a composer grew. He was the first artist to receive a composer's commission for "Iron Jungle" for the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, then a resident orchestra at Jazz at Lincoln Center. The same year, through a grant from The Painted Bride Art Center in Philadelphia, Vázquez was asked to expand Pirates Troubadours, and was commissioned to compose new music for a 19-piece, Afro-Puerto Rican Jazz Orchestra. The 2008 event was recorded live, resulting in *Papo Vázquez Mighty Pirates Marooned/Aislado*, which received a Grammy® Award nomination for Best Latin Jazz Album. Vázquez has also shared his compositions with Ruben Blades (*Tengan Fe/Antecedente*), Hilton Ruiz (*Manhattan Mambo*) and Dave Valentin (*Tropic Heat*).

Sofia Rei is considered one of the most passionate and inventive musicians on the current New York music scene. Her music explores connections between the various traditions of South American folklore, jazz, flamenco and electronic sounds. She has collaborated with artists such as John Zorn (currently with Mycale and the Song Project), Maria Schneider,

Bobby McFerrin, the Klezmatics, Myra Melford, Pedrito Martinez, Lionel Loueke, Guillermo Klein and Geoffrey Keezer (with whom she has earned a Grammy® Award Nomination for Best Latin Jazz Album of 2009). Her latest album, *De Tierra Y Oro* ("Of Earth and Gold") received two independent Music Awards in the World Beat category for Best Album and Best Song in 2013 and has been featured on CNN, NPR's Tiny Desk, WNYC's Soundcheck and in *The New York Times*. Last December, she was one of the three artists featured in the latest edition of Carnegie Hall's Musical Explorer program, and has recently returned from tours in Europe, Colombia, Panama and Mexico. She continues to set herself apart with a bold new vision in the global music scene.