



BIRDMAN LIVE

Antonio Sanchez Live Drum Score

Antonio Sanchez Drums/Composer
Austin Stillwell Production/Tour Manager

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission.

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Saturday, November 19 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

AFRICAN ROOTS, AMERICAN VOICES

Part of the African Roots, American Voices series.

Media Sponsor: 

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Antonio Sanchez

Five-time Grammy® Award winner Antonio Sanchez is considered by many critics and musicians as one of the most prominent drummers, bandleaders and composers of his generation.

Born in Mexico City on November 1, 1971, he started playing drums at the age of five and began performing professionally early in his teens. Sanchez pursued a degree in classical piano at the National Conservatory in Mexico and in 1993, he moved to Boston to enroll at Berklee College of Music and New England Conservatory. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in jazz studies.

Since his move to New York City in 1999, Sanchez has become one of the most sought after drummers in the international jazz scene. His playing is featured in over a hundred albums and he has performed and recorded with some of the biggest names in jazz including Chick Corea, Michael Brecker, Charlie Haden, Gary Burton and Toots Thielmans. He has been the drummer of choice for twenty-time Grammy® Award winner Pat Metheny and has been part of virtually every project the famed guitarist has put together since 2000. They've recorded eight albums together and three of which have been awarded a Grammy®.

Sanchez regularly collaborates with some of the today's most prominent jazz musicians including Joshua Redman, Chris Potter, Christian McBride, John Patitucci, Donny McCaslin, Danilo Perez, David Sanchez, Paquito D'Rivera, Kenny Werner, Marcus Roberts, Avishai Cohen, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Dianne Reeves, Miguel Zenón, Scott Colley, Dave Samuels, Luciana Souza, Billy Childs and Claudia Acuña.

Sanchez' continuous search as an artist has pushed him to compose and lead his own bands and ensembles. He has released four critically-acclaimed albums. His first album, *Migration* was called "one of the best new releases of 2007" by *All About Jazz* and features a star-studded cast including Pat Metheny, Chick Corea, Chris Potter, David Sanchez and Scott Colley. His second solo effort *Live in New York* was recorded during a four-day run at the prestigious Jazz Standard in New York City and features saxophone greats David Sanchez and Miguel Zenón as well as bassist Scott Colley.

Sanchez' 2013 album *New Life* was made entirely of his own compositions and was widely received by critics all over the world. It was the winner of the prestigious German Echo Jazz Award in 2014. *Downbeat Magazine* said, "*New Life* is that rare combination of great composing, great players and great musicianship". In 2015, there were two very distinct projects and important milestones in Sanchez' solo career - *Three Times Three*, a double album which features the three stellar trios of Brad Mehldau and Matt Brewer, John Scofield and Christian McBride and Joe Lovano and John Patitucci. This record included six original compositions and three standards arranged by Sanchez. The second 2015 release was with *Migration*, his working band since 2011. This edition of the band featured Seamus Blake on saxophone, John Escreet on piano and Matt Brewer on bass. The album features a 60-minute piece by Sanchez called "The Meridian Suite" which pushed his compositional skills in a way that no other project has done before.

His writing is also featured on two of Gary Burton's latest releases. *Common Ground* and *Guided Tour* include four of Sanchez' original compositions and the earlier album was named after his tune of the same name.

In 2013, Sanchez was invited by acclaimed filmmaker Alejandro Gonzales Iñárritu to create the original film score for his 2014 release *Birdman or The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance* (Fox Searchlight) featuring Michael Keaton, Edward Norton, Naomi Watts and Emma Stone. This unique project featured Sanchez' drumming as the film's main musical ingredient.

In addition to the film's 2015 Oscar® Award for Best Picture, it won the Sound Stars Award for best Film Score at the 2014 Venice Film Festival and got nominated for the 2014 Hollywood Music in Media Awards for best original Film Score.

Sanchez' interest in education has taken him around the globe performing clinics, drum festivals and master classes. Some of these festivals include the Modern Drummer Festival Weekend, Zildjian Day and the Montreal Drum Festival. He was also a professor at New York University from 2006-2009 but had to stop due to his hectic touring schedule.

He has been the featured cover artist in some of the most widely read drum and jazz magazines in the industry like *Modern Drummer* (USA and Brazil), *Percussioni*, *JazzIt* and *Drumset* (Italy), *Drums and Percussion* (Germany) and *Musico Pro* (USA).

Sanchez won the *Modern Drummer* Reader's Poll for Best Jazz Drummer in 2013 and has been a top contender since the early 2000's. He's also been among the top ranked drummers on *Downbeat's* critic's and reader's polls since 2004.

Sanchez is endorsed by Yamaha Drums, Zildjian Cymbals and Sticks (Antonio Sanchez Signature model), Remo Drumheads and LP Percussion.

He's made New York City his home since 1999.