



Master percussionist, scholar, and composer **Román Díaz** is regarded as a “living repository” of Afro Cuban music. He has performed and recorded with the likes of Mercedita Valdes, Raíces Profundas, Los Marqueses

de Atares, Jane Bunnett, Juan Carlos Formell, Orlando “Puntilla” Ríos, Paquito D’Rivera, Oriente López, and Giovanni Hidalgo. As a member of the seminal rumba ensemble Yoruba Andabo, he aided in the creation of the sound that has defined rumba since the 1980s in Cuba and all around the world. The evolution of guarapachangeo, incorporating bata and the once archaic cajón, into modern rumba is the legacy of the late Pancho Quinto (founder of Yoruba Andabo)—and is piously carried on by Mr. Díaz. As a producer he has brought together some of the finest interpreters of rumba from the island as documented on the CD *Wemilere*. Mr. Díaz left Cuba in 1999 and moved to New York City. Since then he has been featured alongside Orlando “Puntilla” Ríos in the critically acclaimed documentary *Calle 54*, and in *Dame La Mano*, a film that documents the life and times of Union City’s Esquina Habanera. His mastery of bata is present on countless recordings, along with his solid groove on congas. He is a sought-after musician for his artistic sensibility, charisma, and signature sound. Evidence of this can be heard as of late in his work with the highly acclaimed pianist and composer Michele Rosewoman, as part of her New Yor-Uba Ensemble; Francisco Mora Catlett’s Afro Horn, with internationally acclaimed vanguard jazz pianist and composer David Virelles; and Danilo Perez’s Panama 500 project, where he is also featured in a scholarly capacity. His first stateside release as a leader is scheduled for release July 13 on the Motema Label.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN, *Chairman*

DEBORAH F. RUTTER, *President*

TERRACE THEATER

Friday Evening, May 15, 2015, at 7:00

The Kennedy Center

presents

The 20th Annual *Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival*

DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER, *Host*

SYLVIA CUENCA ORGAN QUINTET

SYLVIA CUENCA, *Drums*

JARED GOLD, *Organ*

PAUL BOLLENBACK, *Guitar*

TIVON PENNICOTT, *Saxophones*

STEVE NELSON, *Vibraphone*

INGRID JENSEN BERKLEE QUINTET

INGRID JENSEN, *Trumpet*

ZAHILI GONZALEZ ZAMORA, *Keyboards*

DANIEL KO, *Saxophones*

MAX RIDLEY, *Bass*

PETER JAMES BARNICK, *Drums*

MICHELE ROSEWOMAN'S NEW YOR-UBA

MICHELE ROSEWOMAN, *Piano & Vocals*

ROMAN DÍAZ, *Bata, Congas & Vocals*

ERNESTO "EL GATO" GATELL, *Lead Vocals*

ROMAN FILIU, *Alto & Soprano Saxophones*

MIKE LEE, *Tenor Saxophone*

ANDREW GUTAUSKAS, *Baritone Saxophone*

ALEX NORRIS, *Trumpet & Flugelhorn*

JOSE DÁVILA, *Bass Trombone & Tuba*

GREGG AUGUST, *Bass*

TYSHAWN SOREY, *Drums*

ABRAHAM RODRÍGUEZ, *Bata & Vocals*

MAURICIO HERRERA, *Bata, Congas & Vocals*

There will be a brief pause between each set.