

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LA PLAZA DE CULTURA Y ARTES LAUNCHES FREE SUMMER LATIN JAZZ CONCERT SERIES HONORING ACTIVIST AND LABOR LEADER DOLORES HUERTA'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

(Los Angeles— July 7, 2015) LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes (LA Plaza) presents *Summer of 85 Years*, a free Latin jazz concert series celebrating activist and labor leader Dolores Huerta's 85th birthday. Beginning on Thursday, July 9th some of Southern California's most acclaimed Latin jazz and salsa musicians will perform at LA Plaza for an evening of incredible music, food and culture! Summer of 85 Years is sponsored by Pacific Federal Insurance Corporation, Musicians Foundation of Los Angeles and Univision 34-KMEX.

Concerts will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (gates open at 5 p.m.) on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in July, August and September. The location is 501 N. Main St., Los Angeles. Attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets. Refreshments and beverages will be available for sale; no outside alcoholic beverages permitted. For more information, call 888.488.8038 or visit www.lapca.org.

A special birthday celebration will be held on Thursday, August 13 to celebrate Dolores Huerta's birthday. Tickets may be purchased for early access and reserved seating at the concert at <http://www.summerof85.eventbrite.com>.

Summer of 85 Years concert schedule:

July 9, 6-8 p.m.

Dr. Bobby Rodriguez

Grammy-nominated recording artist, author and award-winning educator Dr. Bobby Rodriguez' passion for music has led him to become a "Latin Legend." He has performed/recorded with many of the top Latin and Latin Jazz artists of his time and has served as a professor of music at UCLA, UC Irvine and Pasadena City College.

July 23, 6-8 p.m.

Brasil Brazil

Featuring internationally renowned singers Ana Gazzola and Sonia Santos, Brasil Brazil delivers the style, rhythm and flavor of Brazilian music and culture performing the country's most well-known standards in contemporary arrangements that encompass all the rhythms and faces of this colorful and tropical culture. Twice winners of the Brazilian International Press Awards, they have released seven CDs and two DVDs.

August 13, 6-8 p.m.

Special Dolores Huerta birthday concert with Louie Cruz Beltran, Pete Escovedo and other special guests

Blending Afro-Cuban rhythms with jazz, Latin jazz, salsa and R&B, Louie Cruz Beltran is a bandleader who is also a superbly skilled vocalist, conguero, timbalero and humorist. He is a popular attraction at venues ranging from intimate clubs to major festivals where he has shared the stage with luminaries including Stevie Wonder, Natalie Cole, Poncho Sanchez, Hubert Laws and many more. Pete Escovedo has been a major force in Latin music since the late '60s, and his versatility has resulted in success in several areas of music, from Latin jazz and salsa to rock and Latin pop. Escovedo has performed with notables as Herbie Hancock,

Woody Herman, Cal Tjader, Tito Puente and daughter Sheila E. Pete frequently leads his own Latin jazz band, often including children Juan, Peter Michael and Zina.

August 27, 6-8 p.m.

Changüí Majadera

Changüí Majadera, a Los Angeles-based band founded by tres player Gabriel Garcia, creates authentic Changüí & Son Cubano music deep from the island of Cuba. Stunning vocals, fiery bongo de monte solos, marimbula-bass thump, driving guayo and maracas, and blazing tres-Cubano solos capture the essence of the “musica campesina” of Cuba, inspiring and captivating audiences with high energy, lyricism and soulful syncopated swing. Changüí Majadero is dedicated to performing and preserving works based on the roots of musical traditions from Guantanamo, Cuba, with a modern/contemporary touch.

September 10, 6-8 p.m.

Susie Hansen

Susie Hansen plays fiery Latin jazz and salsa, with a unique style that features her electric violin as the lead instrument in the ensemble. She integrates her own interpretation of traditional Cuban Charanga, a predecessor of salsa that features the violin, with the compelling harmonies of straight-ahead jazz. Hansen has been featured as a soloist with Orquesta Los Van Van, Cuba’s premier dance orchestra, both in Los Angeles and in Havana, and with Orquesta Aragon, the world’s most acclaimed Cuban Charanga ensemble.

September 24, 6-8 p.m.

The Arsenio Rodriguez Project

An Evening of El Son Cubano

The Arsenio Rodriguez Project is an all-star ensemble of today’s top Los Angeles musicians, dedicated to celebrating the memory of arguably the most important figure in Cuban music history, Arsenio Rodriguez, known as the “Father of Salsa.” The ensemble came together for the first time in 2011 to pay tribute to Arsenio Rodriguez on his 100th anniversary. Music Fans of Cuban Son, the Buenavista Social Club, and Arsenio Rodriguez need to experience The Arsenio Rodriguez Project to live today what this unique legend was like in the 40s and 50s. Rodriguez was a prolific composer and arranger, who wrote and recorded nearly a thousand songs; many of them major salsa hits even today.

ABOUT DOLORES HUERTA:

Dolores Huerta is president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and co-founded the United Farm Workers union with Cesar Chavez. In 2011, President Obama awarded her with the Medal of Freedom, America’s highest civilian honor. Dolores is recognized as defining the labor movement in the 1960s with the chant “si se puede” (yes we can).

ABOUT LA PLAZA: LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes is the nation’s premier center of Mexican American culture.

Providing an experience unlike any other, LA Plaza’s interactive exhibits and dynamic programs invite visitors of all backgrounds to explore as well as contribute to the ongoing story of Mexican Americans in Los Angeles and beyond. Located near the site where Los Angeles was founded in 1781, LA Plaza’s 2.2-acre campus includes two historic and newly renovated buildings (the Vickrey-Brunswick Building and Plaza House) surrounded by 30,000 square feet of public garden.

The mission of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes is to celebrate and cultivate an appreciation for the enduring and evolving influence of Mexican and Mexican American culture, with a specific focus upon the unique Mexican American experience in Los Angeles and Southern California.



501 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

www.lapca.org

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LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, 501 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Hours: M,W & Th, 12–5 pm, Fri-Sun 12-6 pm

Admission: FREE

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