



**UGA**  
**presents.**

24|25 SEASON

## **ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ TRIO**

**Alfredo Rodriguez**, piano, vocals

**Han Beyli**, bass

**Michael Olivera**, drums

WED, JAN 15, 7:30 pm

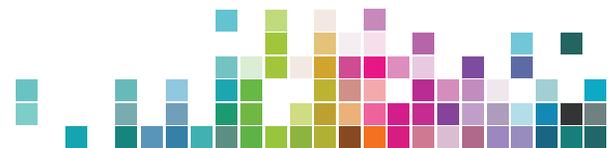
Ramsey Concert Hall

Program to be announced from the stage.

**Supported by**

**J. M. DIXEN**

Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices. Photography, video and audio recording, and texting are prohibited during the performance.



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

### ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ

Born and raised in Havana, Cuba, Alfredo Rodriguez was confined by the numerous restrictions imposed by his country. With limited options, his parents enrolled him in a classical conservatory, but he was quickly shut down by his first teacher who declared him devoid of talent. Despite pushback, his love for piano grew so strong that he wasn't even deterred by not having a piano to practice on at home; instead, he painted piano keys on his parents' dinner table so he could run his scales.

In 2006, at age 19, he received an invitation to represent Cuba at the Montreux Jazz Festival (MJF) in the International Solo Piano Competition. After applying and auditioning as a composer, alongside twelve of the top pianists in the world, he was accepted and made his way to Switzerland, where he ended up being invited to festival founder Claude Nobs's chalet to play for the guests, one of whom happened to be legendary producer Quincy Jones.

Upon Jones' return to Los Angeles, he couldn't get Alfredo out of his mind. He called his VP, Adam Fell, and explained that Alfredo was one of the best pianists he had ever seen and they needed to work with him. Little did they know, Alfredo had only received permission to travel to Switzerland to play in the competition (as it was difficult for Cubans to obtain a travel visa), and they also learned it would be illegal to work with him due to the Cuban embargo.

Cubans were not allowed to work in the U.S., and could only arrive at U.S. border stations to seek political asylum—meaning that Alfredo would have to relinquish his Cuban citizenship and jeopardize his ability to return home until he obtained a green card. After a year and a half of contemplating, he mustered up the courage and made the difficult decision to leave his family behind for a country that could offer him the platform he needed to share the broader message of his music with more people.

It's evident the journey was worth it because not only has Alfredo earned frequent appearances on prestigious stages around the world such as the Playboy Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, Jazz in Marciac, Umbria Jazz and Jazz A Vienne, but additionally, Rodriguez was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella, for the track "Guantanamo" from his album *The Invasion Parade*. Additionally, during his first tour in China, Rodriguez was asked to work with Tan Dun, Siedah Garrett, and Quincy Jones to compose the English version of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo theme song, becoming the first non-Chinese artist to be bestowed this honor. He's also been featured over the years by *All Things Considered*, *Downbeat*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*, among many others, and performed for NPR Music's Tiny Desk Concert.

Rodriguez continues to share his music along with his impactful message of perseverance and cross culturalization, while sharing a variety of viral social media videos in which he plays well-known compositions in a Cuban *timba* style.

## Upcoming Performances



### ANTHONY MCGILL, clarinet EMANUEL AX, piano

Sun, Feb 2, 3:00 pm  
Hodgson Concert Hall

**"Clarinetist Anthony McGill was masterful throughout the performance ... McGill has a silken tone, but he possesses the admirable ability to vary it."**

—*San Diego Union-Tribune*

Anthony McGill is principal clarinet of the New York Philharmonic—the first Black principal player in the organization's history. Emanuel Ax is a legendary pianist who has captivated audiences around the world with his solo recitals, chamber music collaborations, and orchestral performances. Together they'll play music by Schubert, Florence Price, James Lee III, Jessie Montgomery, and Leonard Bernstein.



### TETZLAFF QUARTET

Sun, Mar 30, 3:00 pm  
Ramsey Concert Hall

**"Supremely lyrical, exactingly detailed playing combined with impeccable balance and unanimity, resulting in an overwhelming performance."**

—*New York Times*

It's always a pleasure to welcome a lauded, seasoned string quartet to Athens for the first time, and the performance by this German ensemble promises to become an instant favorite with its "superlative technique and invigorating intensity" (*New York Times*). The performance features an all-Austrian program by three of Vienna's superstar composers: Mozart, Anton Webern, and Schubert.



### BRANDON PATRICK GEORGE, flute MAHAN ESFAHANI, harpsichord

Fri, Apr 18, 7:30 pm  
Ramsey Concert Hall

**"Brandon Patrick George is a flutist who has gained much attention and accolades with his virtuosity and gorgeous round flute tone."—*Sound in Review***

Brandon Patrick George is a leading flute soloist and a member of the Grammy Award-winning Imani Winds who has been praised as a "knockout musician with a gorgeous sound" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*). Iranian-American harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani, whose Bach performances have been called "revelatory" (*The Guardian*), combines scholarship with showmanship to bring his instrument into the 21st century. The two virtuosos will dazzle us with gems by a legendary father/son duo: J.S. and C.P.E. Bach.

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