

**SFJAZZ Gala 2019 Honors Chucho Valdés
with SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Thursday, January 31, 2019
SFJAZZ Center, San Francisco, CA**

*With Chucho Valdés, Irakere 45, Omara Portuondo, Corinne Bailey Rae,
Dianne Reeves, SFJAZZ Collective, Stefon Harris, Yosvany Terry, Harold López-
Nussa, Leyanis Valdés, Jessie Valdés, SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Big Band &
More*

*After Party with Preservation Hall Jazz Band
with Corinne Bailey Rae & Special Guests
plus Jesús Diaz y su QBA*

(San Francisco, CA, November 15, 2018) – SFJAZZ will host the SFJAZZ Gala 2019 honoring *Chucho Valdés* with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award on Thursday, January 31, 2019. The Gala concert program will feature performances by *Chucho Valdés, Irakere 45, Omara Portuondo, Corinne Bailey Rae, Dianne Reeves, SFJAZZ Collective, Stefon Harris, Yosvany Terry, Harold López-Nussa, Leyanis Valdés, Jessie Valdés, SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Big Band*, and other special guests. All proceeds from the SFJAZZ Gala 2019 will support SFJAZZ’s artistic and education programs.

Roselyne Chroman Swig and Darian and Rick Swig will serve as Gala Co-Chairs. The Host Committee is Darius Anderson, Dr. Molly Joel Coye, Dale Djerassi, Sabrina and Mick Hellman, Divesh and Diksha Makan, Lisa Stone Pritzker, and Joyce Stupski. The After Party Committee is Brandon Baker, Katie Colendich, Rachel Happ and Josh Elkes, Lyla Rose Holdstein, Stephanie Liu, and Adam Swig.

On January 31, 2019, the SFJAZZ Center will fill with cultural and political leaders, celebrities, artists, and music enthusiasts to present current SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director Chucho Valdés with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award to celebrate his artistic vision and contributions to global music over the last 50 years.

“As SFJAZZ Gala Co-chair, along with Darian Swig and Roselyne Swig, it is an honor to celebrate the iconic career of Cuban piano legend Chucho Valdés with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award. It is also an honor to commemorate

the organization's education programs for 23,000 Bay Area students, as well as its phenomenal concert presentations," said Rick Swig.

Valdés has been the most influential figure in modern Afro-Cuban jazz for more than a century. He has received six Grammy Awards, three Latin Grammy Awards, and will receive the Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2018 Latin Grammy Awards on November 15, 2018. Valdés was recognized as the most formidable pianist of his generation when he launched Irakere in 1973 with a phenomenal cast that included saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera and trumpeter Arturo Sandoval. Discovered and introduced internationally by Dizzy Gillespie, the band's unprecedented synthesis of folkloric Afro-Cuban rhythms, sacred drums, rock, funk, and jazz opened up vast new frontiers, and helped pave the way for the pervasively popular dance music known as timba.

The evening's Gala Concert will feature famed Cuban singer and icon Omara Portuondo, two-time Grammy winning British vocalist Corinne Bailey Rae, NEA Jazz Master, Five-Time Grammy winner and current SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director vocalist Dianne Reeves, the award-winning SFJAZZ Collective with former member Stefon Harris on vibraphone, Doris Duke Artist Award winner and Grammy nominated Cuban saxophonist Yosvany Terry, Cuban pianist Harold López-Nussa, plus Chucho Valdés' children - pianist daughter Leyanis Valdés and percussionist son Jessie Valdés. The SFJAZZ High School All-Stars will perform in various configurations during the evening.

VIP supporters will enjoy a lively cocktail hour and seated dinner with featured artists and honorees followed by the Gala Concert featuring some of the most exciting names in music – all culminating with the SFJAZZ Gala After Party featuring Preservation Hall Jazz Band with Corinne Bailey Rae & special guests in Robert N. Miner Auditorium and Jesús Diaz y su QBA in Joe Henderson Lab (Last year, the institution of Preservation Hall was honored with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award). Gala-goers and After-partiers will celebrate with an abundant array of the finest cuisine and drinks throughout the evening by Paula LeDuc, with late-night fare from SFJAZZ's favorite neighborhood spots.

Valdés & Irakere 45 will also perform an extended run of shows at the SFJAZZ Center from Friday, February 1 to Sunday, February 3, 2019, during Chucho Valdés' run as SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director

SFJAZZ's work in education will be on display throughout the Gala. In 2018, SFJAZZ announced expansion of in-school education programs and a commitment to reach every public middle school student in San Francisco and Oakland. More than 23,000 students in 70 schools will benefit from the

expansion, which includes school day concerts, standards-based classroom learning residencies, and support of school music ensembles. Over the next few years, the SFJAZZ Education Department will continue to develop and implement these programs with teachers, school administrators, parents, and students to bring jazz into Bay Area classrooms. SFJAZZ has become the world's leading cultural institution devoted to jazz and related forms of music, presenting over 400 performances each year at the SFJAZZ Center and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. SFJAZZ welcomes over 200,000 fans and students every year both at the SFJAZZ Center and around the Bay Area.

Tickets and Information

VIP tickets include an intimate cocktail hour and seated dinner for 150 guests with featured artists before the Gala Concert and After Party, and an exclusive pre-event in a private home including an exclusive performance by some Gala artists.

Luminary tickets, limited to 125 guests, include a private cocktail hour with raw bar and overflowing hors d'oeuvres featuring the **Valdés Family Band** performing with featured celebrity artists before the Gala Concert and After Party.

Gala Concert tickets feature a Cuban inspired reception with drinks, cuisine, and performance by the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Trio before the Gala Concert and After Party.

A limited number of After Party tickets featuring unlimited simultaneous sets from Preservation Hall Jazz Band with Corinne Bailey Rae and special guests in Robert N. Miner Auditorium and Jesús Diaz y su QBA in the Joe Henderson Lab with top-shelf open bar, late-night fare, and desserts are available at \$145.00 for SFJAZZ Members and \$170.00 for general public.

VIP Packages, Luminary, Gala, and After Party tickets are now available via Emily Everding, 415-283-0342, gala@sfjazz.org.

For Further details on the SFJAZZ Gala 2019 including ticket and sponsorship information, visit www.sfjazz.org/gala.

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