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## **Drummer/Composer Dafnis Prieto releases new recording “Triangles and Circles”**

*“Emotionally charged and stylistically diverse, carried along not just by rhythm but also through lovely harmonized passages, horn fanfares, and powerfully conjured moods.” -The Wall Street Journal*

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**Triangles and Circles** is the sixth album by **Dafnis Prieto** as a leader, and his sextet’s long-awaited second release. The new recording brightly illuminates the drummer and **McArthur Fellow** as a composer of considerable depth, with a penchant for complex but infectious melodies that meld the folklore of his Afro-Cuban roots with modern harmonies rich with counterpoint and virtuosic rhythmic concepts.

His bandmates, **Peter Apfelbaum** and **Felipe Lamoglia** on saxophones, trumpeter **Mike Rodriguez**, pianist **Manuel Valera**, and bassist **Johannes Weidenmueller** are all brilliant soloists but also exemplary team players who, like Prieto, are experts at crafting a musical narrative from Pan-American source material.

Recorded on the heels of a one-week run at the Jazz Standard in New York City, the eight album tracks capture the essence of Dafnis’s writing and imagination. The Sextet excels on all fronts, reaching a near-telepathic level of interplay and impeccable interpretation throughout the entire repertoire.

## **Dafnis Prieto**

### **Drummer / Composer / Educator**

Dafnis Prieto is the recipient of a 2011 MacArthur Fellowship (the “genius grant”). He has electrified audiences with his dazzling technical abilities and rhythmically adventurous and groundbreaking compositions.

A classically trained musician who absorbed from an early age the multifaceted percussive traditions of his native Cuba, Prieto transposes elements from his Afro-Cuban musical heritage onto a jazz drum kit, incorporating congas, timbales, and the layered rhythmic patterns of rumba and son. Whether performing as a solo artist, bandleader, or sideman, his playing is characterized by a finely calibrated command of textures and nuances and an ability to execute highly complex, polyrhythmic structures with extraordinary speed and precision.

As a composer, Prieto melds modern jazz harmonies, Cuban clave rhythms, other Latin and African influences, and funk-inspired arrangements to create works of great stylistic diversity that evoke a broad spectrum of moods. His 2006 Latin Grammy nominated recording “Absolute Quintet” showcases both his powerful and propulsive playing as well as his interest in composing for a nonstandard ensemble of organ, cello, violin, saxophone, and drums.

The morphing rhythms and time signatures in his repertoire and performances, especially by his sextet, further demonstrate Prieto's compositional reach and graceful way of slowing down or speeding up a given tempo. Through these and many other recordings, his leadership of numerous ensembles and additional projects featuring his compositions for dance, film, and opera, he has expanded Latin Jazz with a bold new energy and sound.

Besides the MacArthur Fellowship, Dafnis Prieto has received new works commissions, grants, and fellowships from Chamber Music America, Jazz at Lincoln Center, East Carolina University, and Meet the Composer. Various awards include “Up & Coming Musician of the Year” by the Jazz Journalists Association in 2006, a Grammy Award Nomination for “Absolute Quintet” as Best Latin Jazz Album, and a Latin Grammy Nomination for “Best New Artist” in 2007. Also a gifted educator, Prieto has conducted numerous master classes, clinics, and workshops. Since 2005, he has served as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions at New York University. (Includes text by the MacArthur Foundation, used with permission.)

He has worked in bands led by Henry Threadgill, Steve Coleman, Eddie Palmieri, Chico and Arturo O'Farrill, Dave Samuels & The Caribbean Jazz Project, Jane Bunnett, D.D. Jackson, Edward Simon, Michel Camilo, Chucho Valdez, Roy Hargrove, Don Byron and Andrew Hill, among others. He has performed at many national and international music festivals as a sideman and as bandleader.-Dafnis Prieto is the founder of the independent record company Dafnison Music.

Dafnis Prieto endorses Yamaha Drums, Sabian Cymbals, Latin Percussion, Evans drumheads and Vic Firth sticks.

**Dafnis Prieto is currently available for interviews.**

For more information, visit Dafnison Music at [www.dafnisonmusic.com](http://www.dafnisonmusic.com)

For bookings, please contact Hans Wendl at [hwendl@gmail.com](mailto:hwendl@gmail.com), [www.hanswendl.com](http://www.hanswendl.com)

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