

YOSVANY TERRY AFRO-CUBAN SEXTET

Yosvany Terry alto & soprano saxophones, chekeré / **Michael Rodriguez** trumpet
Osmany Paredes piano / **Yunior Terry** bass / **Obed Calvaire** drums / **Mauricio Herrera** percussion

Cuban-born saxophonist and composer **Yosvany Terry** is at the crest of a wave of Latin American musicians transforming the US jazz scene, and his powerhouse Afro-Cuban Sextet serves as essential vehicle for further exploration. Blending a verdant continuum of influences from West Africa, Cuba, and American jazz, Terry has created a singular sound, now recognized as one of the most ambitious and consequent cross-cultural visions on the contemporary scene. This is potent music that maintains a strikingly cohesive sensibility while packing in a dense array of musical ideas and traditions. “In Cuba everything that arrives integrates and becomes part of the culture. Jazz is the same way,” notes Terry, a Grammy Award nominee and 2015 Doris Duke Artist.

Fronting his world-class band with his alto and soprano saxophones and beaded gourd chekeré, Terry is joined by a stellar cast of longtime collaborators. The group is built upon the commanding bass work of **Yunior Terry**, Yosvany’s younger brother. Haitian-American drummer **Obed Calvaire**, a rising force on the jazz scene, provides dazzling rhythmic currents, while Cuban pianist **Osmany Paredes** is a formidable bandleader and composer in his own right. Trumpeter **Michael Rodriguez** is a leading voice on the New York scene best known for his work with Charlie Haden (and his brother, pianist Robert Rodriguez) and Cuban percussion virtuoso **Mauricio Herrera**, like Terry a cultural bearer of various Afro-Cuban traditions, completes the ensemble.

Terry introduced this ensemble on his acclaimed 2012 album ***Today’s Opinion*** (Criss Cross), which was selected by **The New York Times** as one of the year’s **10 best albums**. His original music vividly embodies a sonic world marked by Afro-Cuban polyrhythms and exquisite post-bop angles. He taps into his deep cultural roots as a Cuban leavened by insights gleaned on his global travels. Addressing ancient tradition and contemporary practice, Terry frames his charged improvisations within finely wrought small-group arrangements that offer listeners easy access to music that’s genuinely new.

For Terry, “musicians are cultural ambassadors by default—constantly working with people from different cultures, and traveling to different places. With *Today’s Opinion* I had a chance to incorporate these cultural influences, while offering my own ‘op-ed’ piece on where I think music is and any analysis of where I see jazz headed.”

Terry and his sextet are delivering a supremely rewarding message that embodies jazz’s ongoing evolution, and that may well set new standards for the music of tomorrow. As the New York Times declared, Terry’s music has “helped redefine Afro-Cuban and Latin jazz as a complex new idiom.”

“A dazzling new CD grounded in both distinct formal traditions and abstract ideas.”

– **The Wall Street Journal**

“A band that plays with magnificent musicianship, passion aplenty with its heart on its sleeve, playing striking scores that sound even more interesting every time you listen... It’s so much more than a Latin jazz record. It’s a great jazz CD.” – **Jazzwise, UK**