

DAFNIS PRIETO SI O SI QUARTET



Since his arrival in New York fifteen years ago, two-time Grammy nominee and 2011 MacArthur Fellow **Dafnis Prieto** has steadily grown in stature as an instrumentalist and composer, both as a coveted sideman and as a bandleader.

In his review of a **Si o Si Quartet** performance for the *New York Times*, Nate Chinen praised Prieto as “a spectacularly proficient Cuban drummer” and hailed his music as “dynamic to the extreme ... a slippery amalgam of complex polyrhythm and incantatory melody.” By adding the quartet in 2009 to a roll call of bands that includes the Proverb Trio, the Absolute Quintet, and the Dafnis Prieto Sextet, the native of Santa Clara, Cuba, clinched his reputation as one of the premier bandleaders and composers in jazz today. *Down Beat Magazine* praised him as “a composer of considerable depth,” and *All About Jazz* called his music “ecstatic and intelligent.”

The Si o Si (“Yes or Yes”) Quartet features Prieto’s longtime collaborators **Peter Apfelbaum** on tenor and soprano saxophones, **Manuel Valera** on piano, and **Johannes Weidenmueller** on bass, all among the most in-demand players in New York’s vibrant jazz and Latin jazz scenes. Over the past five years, the Si o Si Quartet has become a thrillingly multifaceted ensemble, with an orchestral richness to match its rhythmic complexity and breathtaking energy.

Tapping its profound fluency in folkloric Cuban idioms and taking daring plunges into modern jazz harmonies and improvisation, the Si o Si Quartet entralls audiences hungry for music at once familiar and new. A four star *Downbeat* review of the band’s debut CD, *Live at Jazz Standard NYC* on Prieto’s own label Dafnison Music, described the magic of the quartet’s appeal: “Prieto has made some exciting albums previously, but those who catch him on a regular basis know that the bandstand is where the real action is,” while *Drumhead Magazine* wrote: “Dafnis Prieto is a revolutionary drummer as well as visionary composer and bandleader. His Si o Si Quartet possesses an ability to musically communicate that almost borders on telepathy.”

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