

DAFNIS PRIETO SEXTET

Peter Apfelbaum, tenor & soprano saxophone
Román Filiú, alto saxophone
Alex Norris, trumpet
Alex Brown, piano
Johannes Weidenmueller, bass
Dafnis Prieto, drums



Since arriving in the U.S. from Cuba in 1999, **Dafnis Prieto** has honed his vibrant, forward-looking musical vision across a range of styles and formats. A conservatory-trained artist steeped in Afro-Cuban folkloric forms, the European classical tradition and post-bop jazz improvisation, he has become known as much for his composing and arranging skills as for his electrifying drumming, displaying a range of musical vocabularies from Latin jazz to chamber music.

The **2011 MacArthur “Genius Fellow** is a highly distinguished bandleader whose Big Band debut recording ***Back to the Sunset*** won a **2018 Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album**. The Big Band is anchored by Prieto’s dazzling **Sextet**, a band comprised of world class instrumentalists that he has led since 2007. The current edition features saxophonists **Peter Apfelbaum** and **Roman Filiu**, trumpeter **Alex Norris**, pianist **Alex Brown**, and bassist **Johannes Weidenmueller**. All brilliant soloists, they are also exemplary team players who, like Prieto, are experts at crafting musical narrative from Pan-American source material.

The Sextet will record its third album in March 2020, slated for a fall release, and to be titled ***Transparency***. A new set of original compositions embraces, in Prieto’s words, “transparent ideas, communication, and relationships in music and life, valuing clarity of intention and celebrating moments fleeting and fragile, simple and beautiful.”

The new album will follow ***Triangles and Circles*** (2015) and ***Taking the Soul for a Walk*** (2008) and promises to again illuminate the master drummer brightly as a composer of complex but infectiously melodic tunes, melding the folklore of his Afro-Cuban roots with modern harmonies rich with counterpoint and virtuosic rhythmic concepts. The Sextet has received glowing reviews by **The New York Times**, **NPR’s Fresh Air**, **Down Beat Magazine**, and **The Wall Street Journal** which described its music as “emotionally charged and stylistically diverse, carried along not just by rhythm but also through lovely harmonized passages, horn fanfares, and powerfully conjured moods.”

“Dafnis Prieto has an infectious dedication to the Afro-Cuban groove, and it’s on full display with his latest recording, *Triangles And Circles*. The album shimmers and swells with his heart-pounding drum work, but it’s wrapped by beautiful melodic structure and thoughtful compositions that draw from a broad musical ocean. ...all deliver killer solos, but not at the expense of the grand vision of the song. That’s the magic of Prieto: He has the ability to offer compositions and arrangements that are distinctly him, but he craftily leaves room for pedal-to-the-metal improvisation from a truly great band.” —**Down Beat Editors’ Pick**