HOPKINS CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
presents

LA EXCELENCIA

Post-Performance Discussion
You are invited to remain in the theater immediately following the performance for an informal discussion with the artists.

This performance is made possible in part by generous support by the C. Henry Hathaway 1907 Memorial Fund No. 3 and the Patricia S. and Robert A. Levinson 1946 Fund in Support of the Hopkins Center's Visiting Performing Artists Program.

Cosponsored by The point

Tuesday, January 31, 2012 | 7 pm
Spaulding Auditorium | Dartmouth College

LA EXCELENCIA

Jose Vazquez-Cofresi *congas*

Edwin Perez *vocals*

Yuniel Jimenez *back-up vocals/tres guitar*

Jorgito Bringas *back-up vocals/bass*

Willy Rodriguez *piano*

Nestor Villar *bongos*

Julian Silva *timbales*

Ron Prokopez *trombone*

Tokunori Kajiwara *trombone*

Miki Hirose *trumpet*

Jonathan Powell *trumpet*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

La Excelencia is part of the new generation of hardcore salsa sounds, or *salsa dura*, bringing a modern vitality and social consciousness to the genre. These revolutionary salsa ambassadors take their bold new sounds to dancers and hardcore salsa fans worldwide, breaking the mold while remembering their roots. The hard life of the barrio is reflected in La Excelencia's music, which is "full of powerful arrangements of free-flowing horns and lively percussion" (*Latin Beat Magazine*).

Founded in 2005 by Julian Silva and Jose Vazquez-Cofresi, the 11-piece salsa orchestra released its first album, *Salsa Con Conciencia*, in 2006, prompting *The New York Times* to write, "The real deal doesn't show up that often, and here it is. Celebrate it." *Salsa Con Conciencia* sold over 11,000 copies independently around the world.

The demand for another album was realized in 2009 with the release of *Mi Tumbao Social*, acclaimed by critics and disc-jockeys around the world as the best salsa CD of 2009. Following the CD's successful world release, La Excelencia was chosen to be on the cover of *Latin Beat Magazine*. A tour to 16 countries followed, with every performance sold out.

That same year, the BBC's Latin Music USA and BBC Television chose La Excelencia to represent the "New Generation of *Salsa Dura*" at the world famous Barbican in London, UK. The sold-out

ABOUT THE ARTISTS CONTINUED

concert was broadcast live on BBC; it would become a part of La Excelencia's own unique stamp on *salsa dura*.

La Excelencia's music can be found on countless salsa/world music compilations, motions pictures and instructional DVDs, and can also be heard on radio stations and satellite radio both national and international. Thanks to the worldwide communities of dancers and hardcore salsa fans, La Excelencia has become one of the most sought-after salsa orchestras in the world.

This is La Excelencia's first engagement at the Hopkins Center.

CONNECTING ARTISTS TO THE COMMUNITY

While at Dartmouth, La Excelencia participates in a post-performance discussion and attends a student reception at the Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies House. For more information on Hop Outreach & Arts Education, call 603.646.2010 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu/outreach.

HUGH MASEKELA

TUE | FEB 21 | 7 PM
SPAULDING AUDITORIUM

A defining force in world music for 50 years, legendary South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela is a global superstar. Masekela's Grammy-winning music has long been a call to freedom and a celebration of the resilience of his people. From Broadway (*Sarafina!*) to the anti-apartheid movement to the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Soccer World Cup, his blend of Afro-beat, funk and jazz reigns supreme.

THE ARTIST'S ROLE AS ACTIVIST

MON | FEB 20 | 6:30 PM | FILENE AUDITORIUM | FREE

Professor of English Jonathan Crewe interviews Hugh Masekela about the legendary trumpeter's half century of music-making, his work fighting against apartheid in his homeland, and the role of the artist-activist. Programmed in support of the Dartmouth Centers Forum 2011-12 theme, "Words and Their Consequences" (dartmouth.edu/~centersforum).

For more info, contact Hop Outreach at 603.646.2010.

For tickets or more info call the Box Office at 603.646.2422 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu.
Sign up for weekly HopMail bulletins online or
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PACO PEÑA

TUE | MAR 27 | 7 PM | SPAULDING AUDITORIUM

Immerse yourself in the explosive rhythms and soul-stirring melodies with brilliant flamenco guitar legend Paco Peña and his ensemble of six musicians and singers. Celebrated internationally for the authenticity and innovation he brings to this archetypal Spanish form, Peña "is a virtuoso, capable of dazzling an audience with technical abilities beyond the frets of mortal man... [combining] rapid-fire flourishes with a colorist's sense of shading; the listener cannot recall hearing any guitarist with more assured mastery of his instrument" (*The New York Times*).

SAT
FEB 11
8 PM
SPAULDING

36TH ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL CONCERT

BARBARY COAST JAZZ ENSEMBLE BIG BAND FUNK!

with JOE BOWIE Composer/trombone/percussion/vocals

The Coast dives into the wild, intoxicating jazz-punk-funk fusion that has been the trademark for more than three decades of special guest Joe Bowie and his legendary group Defunkt: "a mix of free-spirited dance rhythms, churning R&B, power improv and street vocals…danceable and accessible" (*Toronto Star*).

FRI
MAR 30
8 PM
MOORE

INDIA JAZZ SUITES

Two master "hoofers" riff on each other's rhythmic imaginations in this joyous collaboration between Pandit Chitresh Das, one of the world's foremost masters of the barefoot, bellbedecked North Indian dance called Kathak; and Emmy Award-winning Jason Samuels Smith, one of the world's fastest tappers and a veteran of Broadway's *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk*. The two men solo with their own bands before coming together in a show-stopping duet exploding with power, grace and beauty.

For tickets or more info call the Box Office at 603.646.2422 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu.
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STAGEHANDS LOCAL 919

Please turn off your cell phone inside the theater.

Assistive Listening Devices available in the lobby.

DARTMOUTH RECYCLES

If you do not wish to keep your playbill, please discard it in the recycling bin provided in the lobby. Thank you.