



MARSALIS MUSIC

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MARSALIS MUSIC ANNOUNCES *ESTA PLENA*, NEW MUSIC BY 2008 MACARTHUR AND GUGGENHEIM FELLOW MIGUEL ZENÓN

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Cambridge, MA – Marsalis Music is pleased to announce the release of *Esta Plena* a new studio album by alto saxophonist and composer Miguel Zenón. The new work will be available digitally on August 25, 2009. It will be released in a physical format on October 20, 2009. Last year, Zenón was a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, also called the “genius grant,” for “drawing from a variety of jazz idioms and the music of his native Puerto Rico to create complex, accessible sounds that overflow with emotion.” Remarkably, in 2008, he also received a Guggenheim Fellowship for musical composition, making Zenón the first jazz musician to receive both awards in the same calendar year.

Esta Plena, a product of his Guggenheim Fellowship, reinterprets *plena*, a traditional Afro-Caribbean music from Puerto Rico, with the sensibility and techniques of modern jazz. Initially, what drove these projects was a personal desire to know more about my own culture,” he says. “After I left Puerto Rico, I immersed myself in jazz for a very long time so I wasn’t really dealing with Puerto Rican music. I had been exposed to it growing up, but it wasn’t until I began writing my own music that I really started to pay close attention to it. That’s when I decided to explore this music and find out more about my roots.” “What distinguishes Miguel,” explains label-founder and fellow saxophonist, Branford Marsalis, “is his ability to successfully integrate musical elements from his own culture into the jazz form without compromising either. What he plays, it’s not your standard ‘latin jazz’, but something different.”

Comprising 10 original tracks, half instrumental and half featuring lyrics by Zenón, *Esta Plena* features Zenón’s long-standing regular quartet – Luis Perdomo on acoustic piano, Hans Glawischnig on bass, and Henry Cole on drums – augmented by Héctor “Tito” Matos, Obanilú Allende, and Juan Gutiérrez on vocals and panderos (hand-held single-head drums). The result is earthy and sophisticated - street music for the 21st century.

Born and raised in the Santurce section of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Miguel Zenón began playing music at the age of ten. He attended the *Escuela Libre de Música*, San Juan’s arts high school, eventually earning a scholarship to Berklee College of Music. While in Boston, he played with Danilo Pérez, Bob Moses, and the Either/Orchestra before moving to New York City in 1998 where he attended the Manhattan School of Music and has since worked with artists and groups such as the David Sánchez Sextet, the Mingus Big Band, Steve Coleman, Charlie Haden, the SFJAZZ Collective and others. His first recording as a leader was *Looking Forward* (2002, Fresh Sound New Talent). He debuted on Marsalis Music in 2004 with *Ceremonial*, followed by *Jíbaro*, in 2005 and, most recently, *Awake* released in 2008.

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2009 TOUR DATES

- 10.08-11 The Jazz Showcase - Chicago, IL
- 10.15 Yoshi's - San Francisco, CA
- 10.17 The Triple Door/Earshot Festival - Seattle, WA
- 10.20 Central Station - Damstadt, Germany
- 10.21 A-Trane - Berlin, Germany
- 10.22 La Cigale/Paris Jazz Festival - Paris, France
- 10.23 Jazz en Tete Festival - Clermont-Ferrand, France
- 10.24 Paradox Jazz Club - Tilbourg, The Netherlands
- 10.30 Piccolo Theater - Braunschweig, Germany
- 10.31 Stadtgarten/Cologne Jazz Festival - Cologne, Germany
- 11.02 Sendesaal Bremen - Bremen, Germany
- 11.03 Saarbruken, Germany
- 11.05 Auditorio Roy Carvalho - Oeiras, Portugal
- 11.06 Jazz Terrassa - Terrassa, Spain
- 11.07 Teatro Central de Sevilla - Sevilla, Spain
- 11.10-14 Badajoz International Jazz Festival - Badajoz, Spain
- 11.16 Ronnie Scott's/London Jazz Festival - London, England
- 11.17-18 The Jazz Dock - Prague, Czech Republic
- 11.19 Vestjysk Musikkonservatorium - Esbjerg, Denmark
- 11.21 Stadthalle/Foyer - Memmingen, Germany

2010 TOUR DATES

- 01.27-30 Mondavi Center for the Performing Art/UC Davis - Davis, CA
- 02.06 Peak Performances/Montclair State University - Montclair, NJ
- 02.09 Black Rock Center for the Arts - Germantown, MD
- 02.10 American Theater - Hampton, VA
- 02.11 Duke University - Durham, NC
- 02.13 The Painted Bride - Philadelphia, PA
- 04.09 Purdue University - West Lafayette, IN
- 04.10 Interlochen Center for the Arts - Interlochen, MI

MARSALIS MUSIC is the creation of Branford Marsalis, one of the most celebrated jazz musicians of the past quarter century. Based upon his extensive experience as a saxophonist, composer and bandleader, Marsalis recognized the need to form a label that allows a diverse array of musicians to document their best effort. Launched in 2002, Marsalis Music has focused primarily on jazz, with a roster featuring such promising new artists as Miguel Zenón and Claudia Acuña as well as Marsalis himself and such established stylists as Joey Calderazzo and Harry Connick, Jr. The label receives distribution support Universal Music Group, and also sponsors Marsalis Jams through its non-profit arm, Music Education Initiative, Inc. Marsalis Jams has presented ensembles in performance/jam session settings on college and high school campuses around the country, featuring such leading musicians as Sean Jones, David Sánchez, Miguel Zenón and the late James Williams.

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