



JAZZ NIGHT AT CARSON

MARCH 28, 2022 • 7:00 PM • CARSON CENTER

AARÓN SERFATY • ENSEMBLE LEADER, ALAJE

MICHAEL STEVER • ENSEMBLE LEADER, STEVER COMBO

KATIE THIROUX • ENSEMBLE LEADER, THIROUX COMBO

USC Thornton
School of Music

PROGRAM

INDESTRUCTIBLE

Ray Barreto

Ray Barreto is one of the most important percussionists in the history of the music we know as Salsa. His contributions can't be overstated or underestimated. One of his most important albums is *Indestructible*. The name came about after a difficult break up with two of his most accomplished band mates. He recruited a new timbal player and a new singer and recorded this album. We are celebrating fifty years since its recording. All the transcriptions and arrangements have been done by former or current members of ALAJE, all students of various programs within the Contemporary Music Division at the USC Thornton School of Music.

Right before the lockdown, in March of 2020, we played another iconic Barreto album, *Rican-Struction*, then immediately went into isolation. Remote learning and Zoom became the norm. Now that “normal” is on its way, even if we're not there yet, we thought it would be a great idea to remind ourselves that we are indeed “indestructible.” No matter the circumstances, with perseverance, dedication and determination we can get through almost anything.

ALAJE (Afro Latin American Jazz Ensemble) is the brainchild of former student Roberto Miranda and founder of the jazz studies program, Dr. Thom Mason. The original idea of the ensemble was to play music from Latin America in a jazz context and also utilize jazz harmonies and apply them to Latin American music.

Aarón Serfaty



Album art courtesy of ViniloBlog

ALAJE

Kira Levin

vocals and clave

Hazle Thunes

vocals and maracas

Claire Velez

vocals

Isabella Morcote

vocals

Sophia Stroud

bongo, vocals

Dominic Melendez

bass, vocals

Graham Littlejohn

congas

Mark Valdes

timbales

Austen Mendoza

piano

Justin Gilmore-Gresham

Yaseen El Magharbel

Addison Tharp

Landon Grigsby

trumpet

Jordan De Tiege

baritone sax

Connor Monroe

tenor sax

Ethan Furman

alto sax

Ryan Kiernan

Daron Bedrossian

Kenton Luck

trombone

Aarón Serfaty

director, percussion



UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 1st at 7:00 p.m.

USC Thornton Winds with the Yellowjackets

Apr. 5th at 7:30 p.m.

USC Percussion Group

Apr. 8th at 8:00 p.m.

USC Thornton Concert Choir

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