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Symphony Space and Arturo O’Farrill’s Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra To Join Forces in the 2007-2008 Season

New York, New York, April 15, 2007 - **The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra** (ALJO) will be relocating to **Symphony Space** beginning with the 2007 – 08 season, announced Cynthia Elliott, Symphony Space’s Executive Director and Arturo O’Farrill, the Orchestra’s founder and Artistic Director. The Orchestra has been performing at *Jazz at Lincoln Center* since 2002.

Cynthia Elliott, Symphony Space’s Executive Director, said, “We are thrilled to welcome **Arturo O’Farrill** and **The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra** to the Symphony Space family. Their dynamic performances will enrich our continuing tradition of innovative programming that brings world-class artists and eclectic performances to the Upper West Side. The ALJO’s inaugural season is also Symphony Space’s Thirtieth Anniversary Season, and it will be part of our new, expanded roster of music series and outstanding musicians, including Jon Faddis, Ursula Oppens, Meredith Monk and Mark O’Connor.”

“The move is part of a joyful new restructuring of the orchestra's purpose,” said **Arturo O’Farrill**, the Orchestra’s founder and Artistic Director, “Symphony Space is a perfect home for us in that they reflect an inclusive aesthetic in their definition not only of jazz but of the arts in general and, in particular, of world culture. I fiercely believe in their commitment to keeping ticket prices affordable for the average human being.”

On July 4, 2002, **The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra** was founded by **Arturo O’Farrill** and began a five-year tenure with *Jazz at Lincoln Center*. The Orchestra has garnered worldwide acclaim having performed at home and abroad, including China, Japan and Mexico. Critically considered as an outstanding Afro-Latin-jazz big band, the Orchestra was nominated for a Grammy.

Unique in New York City’s cultural landscape, Symphony Space—which presents more than 500 events each year in music, literature, dance, theatre, film, and family programming—is the only New York venue where one can see Amy Sedaris; *Rear Window*; John Corigliano; the Keigwin Kabaret; Tom Chapin; Mavis Gallant; and Patricia Barber all in one house, and all in one season. One of New York’s preeminent and most reasonably priced cultural resources since

1978, Symphony Space is a leader in adventurous programming. Our signature events include *Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story*, hosted by Isaiah Sheffer and broadcast on 150 National Public Radio affiliates; *Bloomsday on Broadway*, the annual marathon celebration of James Joyce's *Ulysses*; *Upper West Fest*, a three-week cultural extravaganza involving more than twenty neighborhood institutions; and *Wall to Wall*, the free annual twelve-hour musical marathon, which *The New York Times* called our "gift to New York City." Symphony Space's programs annually attract diverse audiences from throughout New York City and the metropolitan area and, including our recording, touring, and media efforts, reach nearly 500,000 people nationwide. Symphony Space's Artistic Director is Isaiah Sheffer; Executive Director, Cynthia Elliott.