

Ramón Valle & Gustavo Corrales Romero



Cuban classical and jazz by two Cuban masters.

Two pianists. Two styles. One purpose.

Central Library The Hague · Spui 68, 2511 BT · The Hague · 1st floor (Studio B)
Sunday 3 September 2017 · 14:00 hrs · Doors open at 13:30 hrs
Free entry · Free seating

Courtesy of the Central Library The Hague
during The Hague's UIT Festival.

Ramón Valle 'The other face of Cuban jazz' and Latin American classical and contemporary music specialist **Gustavo Corrales Romero** will again be joining forces for a presentation of exotical sounds on the piano. In the renewed program the focus will again be on an exciting interaction between their two diverse repertoires, whereby even more is possible than in the past due to newly acquired materials. Besides classical music by Lecuona and Fariñas the emphasis will mainly be on compositions and arrangements by the pianists and a taste of Corrales' 3rd CD ARIOSOS, while the program will feature several premieres.

The Valle-Corrales formula is characterized by the presentation by Corrales of classical and contemporary Cuban composers and Valle's response to these through his signature improvisations. In addition, Valle has an impressive discography with own compositions to select from and in the meantime Corrales has also begun creating arrangements and compositions; both inspired by their classical education, many influences and Cuban background. Their upcoming collaboration is viewed as a great opportunity to present three new quatre mains pieces; two by Valle and one by Corrales.

Valle and Corrales have both gone the path of Cuban education for the piano, which means that from their 7th year they essentially received dual education: regular on the one hand, the other in the field of music. Being from different parts of the country (Holguin and Guantánamo), they met each other in the musical circuit in Havana, then went their separate ways, to later meet each other in the Netherlands, where Valle arrived about 5 years before Corrales.

This collaboration seemed only logical given the various binding factors. First there is the partly common background. Then there are the rich Cuban folkloric musical traditions that form the basis of the classical, contemporary and jazz music performed and a shared desire to put this music in the spotlight and present both its fascinating differences and its intriguing parallels with European and Western music. Both pianists bring a charisma and expressiveness to their performances that is usually warmly welcomed by audiences, and a typical Cuban charm also felt when they're not sitting at the piano. Finally, the relationship between Corrales and Valle is characterized by mutual professional appreciation, respect and friendship.

The pianists will be commenting on their performance in English.

Ramón Valle started studying the piano at the Escuela Provincial de Arte in his home town of Holguín, Cuba, at age 7. He graduated from Havana's Escuela Nacional de Arte (ENA)¹ in 1984. His exceptional talent was discovered in 1985 when he performed in a double concert with fellow Cuban pianist, Emiliano Salvador.

As solo artist and as leader of the jazz quartet Brújula, Valle appeared at numerous festivals (Mexico DF, Bogotá, Havana Jazz Festival) and was soon an established name in the Cuban and Latin American jazz scene. In 1991 Silvio Rodríguez, founder of the Nueva Trova, asked him to join his band Diákara, which he stayed with until 1993. Valle followed this up with an impressive series of performances and projects in Europe since 1995 and his move to Amsterdam in 1997.

In the meantime Valle has become a seasoned veteran boasting multiple appearances at the North Sea jazz festival and a growing list of performances at several important other international jazz festivals including in Montreux, Capetown, Johannesburg and Melbourne. He continues to expand his arsenal of original compositions and has also composed pieces commissioned by the municipality of Amsterdam and the Israeli symphonic orchestra The Sinfonietta of Beer Sheva.

Although the influence of his classical background and especially of the triumvirate Jarrett-Corea-Hancock can be heard, the remarkable thing about Valle's music is his ability to weld these diverse influences together to create a unique style that eludes traditional categories.

'The greatest talent among our young pianists.' Words Chucho Valdés, prominent musician and founder of Irakere, used to introduce Ramón Valle on his debut album *Levitando* [1993]. His discography now consists of 11 CDs, several of which were published under his own label RVS MUSIC. The last two CDs *Take Off* – with arrangements of music by Stevie Wonder, Leonard Cohen, Michel Legrand and John Coltrane besides own work – and *The Art of Two*, the duo project with his cousin Orlando 'Maraca' Valle, were both published with the German In+Out Records.

www.ramonvallemusic.com

Gustavo Corrales Romero has enjoyed 17 years of professional musical training in the solid tradition of the Russian school for piano since he was 7. Winning a national competition in Cuba at age 18, having concluded studies at the Escuela Nacional de Arte (ENA)¹, enabled him to study at the P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow for one year. After this he returned to Cuba to complete, at the age of 24, his studies with a Master Degree in Music, specializing in Piano at the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)² in Havana, where he stayed on as a professor of Piano and Chamber Music for three years.

Corrales has a special passion for contemporary music. In 1997 he co-founded the SODAMC, a UNESCO-sponsored association that organized monthly meetings in Havana that rapidly became a significant part of the Cuban art scene. Corrales performed in all concerts.

Public performances were begun at the age of 16. Over the years Corrales acquired a vast amount of podium experience through participation in many national and international festivals and as a concert pianist in South America, the Caribbean and several countries in Europe, especially in The Netherlands where he has been living and working with his wife since 2002. He has his own production company, KyG Productions, with which he has been producing CDs, books and concerts and promoting classical and contemporary Latin American music for years.

Corrales has a special bond with several of the Cuban contemporary composers whose work he plays including his teachers and later colleagues Harold Gramatges (winner of the Spanish 'Tomás Luis de Victoria' prize for music in 1997) and Carlos Fariñas and the younger Keyla Orozco (USA), Eduardo Morales (Spain), Yosvani Quintero (Switzerland) and Ailem Carvajal (Italy).

His debut as a writer, 'Los Herederos', written in Spanish, was accepted for publication with great enthusiasm by Ediciones EntreRíos and presented at the Miami Book Fair International. In the meantime Corrales has finished his 2nd book, which is being readied for publication. After solo CD productions *Palimpsesto* (An evolution of the Cuban piano) and *Fresco* (A wide impression of Latin American classical and contemporary music) preparations are underway to produce *Arioso*, featuring Corrales' suite of arrangements for piano trio of traditional Cuban songs.

www.gustavocorralesromero.net

¹ Escuela Nacional de Arte (ENA): National School for Art, Havana, Cuba.

² Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA): the Superior Institute for Art, Havana, Cuba.

Picture: Brigitte Soffner



LOCATION DETAILS

Public transport

Approximately 5-10 minutes walking distance from tram stop Spui:

Trams 2,3,4,6 in tunnel.

Trams 9,15,16,17 ground level (Kalvermarkt, around the corner).

Tram 1, Bus 22 and 24 (Spui).

By car: Routeplanners

www.anwb.nl (in Dutch)

www.drive-alive.co.uk/route_planner.asp (in English)

PARKING

Q-Park (City Parking)

Laan 5-7, 2512 GM, The Hague

(Seen top right on map)

