



**DAFNIS PRIETO**

Drummer | Composer | Bandleader  
Macarthur Fellow

*From Cuba, **Dafnis Prieto's** revolutionary drumming techniques and compositions have had a powerful impact on the Latin and Jazz music scene, nationally and internationally.*

*Various awards include a 2011 MacArthur Fellowship Award; a GRAMMY Award and a Latin GRAMMY Award nomination as Best Latin Jazz Album for Dafnis Prieto Big Band Back to the Sunset in 2018; a GRAMMY Award nomination as Best Latin Jazz Album for Absolute Quintet, and a Latin GRAMMY nomination for "Best New Artist" in 2007; and "Up & Coming Musician of the Year" by the Jazz Journalists Association in 2006. Also a gifted educator, Prieto has conducted numerous master classes, clinics, and workshops throughout the world. He was a faculty member of Jazz Studies at NYU from 2005 to 2014, and in 2015 became a faculty member of Frost School of Music at UM (University of Miami).*

*As a composer, Prieto has created music for dance, film, chamber ensembles, and most notably for his own bands ranging from duets to big bands, including the distinctively different groups featured by eight acclaimed recordings as a leader: About The Monks, Absolute Quintet, Taking The Soul For a Walk, Si o Si Quartet-Live at Jazz Standard, Dafnis Prieto Proverb Trio, Triangles and Circles, Back to the Sunset, and Transparency. He has received new works commissions, grants, and fellowships from Chamber Music America, Princeton University, Jazz at Lincoln Center, East Carolina University, and Meet the Composer.*

*Prieto has performed at many national and international music festivals as a bandleader presenting his own projects and music, as well as a sideman. Since his arrival to New York in 1999, Prieto has worked in bands led by Michel Camilo, Chucho Valdés, Bebo Valdés, Henry Threadgill, Steve Coleman, Eddie Palmieri, Chico and Arturo O'Farrill, Dave Samuels & The Caribbean Jazz Project, Jane Bunnett, D.D. Jackson, Edward Simon, Roy Hargrove, Don Byron, and Andrew Hill, among others.*

*In 2016 Prieto published the groundbreaking analytical and instructional drum book, A World of Rhythmic Possibilities. In March 2020 he published Rhythmic Synchronicity, a book for non-drummers inspired by a course of the same name that Prieto developed at the Frost School of Music.*

## Honors, Grants & Commissions

*GRAMMY Award, Best Latin Jazz Album, Dafnis Prieto Big Band Back to the Sunset, 2019*  
*Latin GRAMMY Nomination, Best Latin Jazz Album, Dafnis Prieto Big Band Back to the Sunset, 2018*  
*National Association of Latino Arts & Cultures (NALAC) Fund for the Arts Grant, Dafnis Prieto Big Band, 2018*  
*Commissioned by the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, for a new work for the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, 'The Triumphant Journey', 2014*  
*Opening track of the Latin GRAMMY-winning album, Cuba: The Conversation Continues, 2015*  
*MacArthur Fellowship, 2011*  
*Commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art, 2009*  
*Commissioned by WNYC, for a New Work, 2009*  
*Commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center, for a new work for the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, 'Song for Chico', 2005*  
*Title track of the GRAMMY-winning album, Song for Chico, 2008*  
*Commissioned by Meet the Composer, Commissioning Music, 2007*  
*Latin GRAMMY Nomination, Best New Artist, 2007*  
*GRAMMY Nomination, Best Latin Jazz Album, Dafnis Prieto Absolute Quintet, 2007*  
*Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Award, Up & Coming Musician of the Year, 2006*  
*Commissioned by the Ethos Percussion Group, under auspices of the Jerome Foundation, 'The Guiros Talk', a piece for 4 guiros (1 mov) & 'Claveteando', a piece for 4 sets of percussion (2 mov), 2006*  
*Commissioned by the New Trumpet Consortium, a piece for trumpet & percussion, 'Trail of Memories', 2005*  
*Commissioned by East Carolina University (Greenville, NC) to write a piece, 'Echo Dimensions', for the Meridian Arts Ensemble (Brass Quintet & Percussion), 2005*  
*Meet the Composer Van Lier Fellowship, 2005*  
*Commissioned by The Painted Bride, Philadelphia, 2005*  
*Chamber Music America New Jazz Works Award, 2005*  
*Commissioned by the CBC in Toronto, Canada to write a piece, 'On and On', for the True North Brass Quintet, 2004*  
*Composed music for the GRAMMY-winning album, The Gathering, by The Caribbean Jazz Project, 2002*

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## Music & Dance Collaborations

*Music for 'Taking the Soul for a Walk', Ballet Contemporaneo de Camaguey, Pedro Ruiz, Artistic Director. Performed at: Hunter College, NYC, March 2019; Teatro Avellaneda, Camaguey, Cuba, June 2017 & Teatro Martí, Havana, Cuba, August 2017*  
*Music for the dance work, 'Citizens and Individuals?', Commissioned by Danspace Project, 2005*  
*'Time in Circles', The Joyce Theater, NYC, Spring 2002*

*'Forms and Sounds', The Jazz Gallery, NYC, 2002*  
*'Puzzle/Rompecabezas', The Kitchen, NYC, Fall 2002*  
*'Sang', Danspace Project, Spring 2002*  
*'A Mouth in a Sleeping Shell', PS 122, NYC, Winter 2000*  
*'Un Lugar', Havana, 1996*

## **CONTACT**

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