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**THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE PRESENTS THE UNITED STATES PREMIERE OF
ORBERT DAVIS' CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC'S
"SCENES FROM LIFE: CUBA!" FRIDAY, NOV. 13**

Musicians and Members of a Cuban Delegation Join the CJP for this Historic One Night
Only Event on the Landmark Auditorium Stage

CHICAGO, IL — The **Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University** is proud to announce the United States premiere of "Scenes from Life: Cuba!" composed and conducted by **Orbert Davis** and performed by his **Chicago Jazz Philharmonic (CJP)**, Friday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Parkway. Featured guest artists for this extraordinary performance will include student musicians from Cuba's national conservatory of the arts. Tickets are \$29 - \$68 and are available at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling (312) 341-2300 or in-person at the Auditorium Theatre's Box Office, 50 E. Congress Parkway. Subscriptions for the Auditorium Theatre's 2015 - 2016 season and discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more are also available. For more information visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

"For over 125 years, the Auditorium Theatre has witnessed historic events that included presidents, renowned performers, world-famous arts companies and more. This United States premiere, featuring musicians from Cuba, is another historic moment to celebrate," said Executive Director **Brett Batterson**. "Orbert and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic were witnesses to the earliest days of our country's new relationship with Cuba and will bring those emotions, as well as the rich history of Cuba's music, to the Auditorium for an extraordinary performance."

In December 2014, Davis and Chicago Jazz Philharmonic musicians conducted a weeklong residency at **Universidad de las Artes (ISA)**, Cuba's national conservatory of music in Havana, culminating in the debut of this new work at the Havana International Jazz Festival. During this residency, the United States and Cuba made the historic announcement of the normalization of their diplomatic relations, thrusting Davis and CJP into the spotlight of local and national news.

For this one-night-only performance in Chicago, musicians from ISA will once again perform with the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic. In the days prior to the performance the Cuban musicians and ISA staff, along with CJP, will participate in pre-concert talks, open rehearsals and other activities designed to foster communication and the exchange of ideas between Cubans and Chicagoans.

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“The scope of this project extends beyond the November concert,” stated Davis. “We are developing a relationship that will strengthen the ties between our two countries and help bridge cultural and political differences. This is a model for long-term cultural diplomacy where music and the arts create a common language that sets the stage for on-going conversation and understanding.”

The Chicago Jazz Philharmonic's “Scenes from Life: Cuba!” is part of the Auditorium Theatre's “Made in Chicago” Music Series.

About Chicago Jazz Philharmonic

[The Chicago Jazz Philharmonic](#) (CJP) has just completed its tenth anniversary season, celebrating what began as Orbert Davis' dream and became an established cultural institution. Chicago Jazz Philharmonic is a 55+ piece symphonic orchestra and a 16-piece chamber ensemble providing rich, accessible, multi-cultural music experiences that bridge gaps in jazz and classical genres. As America's definitive “Third Stream Orchestra”, CJP performs works from the standard jazz big band to the classical symphony, while creating a “new aesthetic” in cross-genre collaborations.

The organization also provides music education through “[Jazz Alive](#),” a weekly music and band education program for Chicago Public School students, and the Summer Jazz Academy, a two-week immersion program in music theory and practice. Chicago Jazz Philharmonic performances entertain and inspire, and the community-based education programs improve lives – from school age through adulthood.

About Orbert Davis

Orbert Davis is co-founder, conductor and artistic director of Chicago Jazz Philharmonic. He is also the co-founder of “Jazz Alive,” an interdisciplinary enrichment program that focuses on teaching life and academic skills through music, currently running in eleven Chicago Public Elementary Schools.

One of Chicago's busiest and most sought after musicians, Davis won an Emmy Award in 2012 for the composition and production of an original score for the national PBS documentary, “DuSable to Obama: Chicago's Black Metropolis.”

In September 2011, Davis was named artist-in-residence for the Chicago Jazz Festival, an honor held by only one other Chicagoan in its history. In 2010, he received the “Arts Legend Award” from the Arts Alliance Illinois, a statewide arts advocacy group, recognizing his mission-based accomplishments in both performance and education.

Orbert Davis' compositions and arrangements have been performed worldwide by the Melbourne Symphony (with Kurt Elling), Poznan Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra, Univ. of Louisville Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, and Fox Valley Orchestra. When he is not performing, composing, or teaching, Davis finds time to talk all things jazz - past, present, and future - as he hosts a weekly jazz radio show, “The Real Deal” airing on WDCB 90.9 FM and streaming live on [wdcb.org](#). He has a Bachelor's degree in trumpet performance from DePaul University and a Masters degree in Jazz Pedagogy from Northwestern University.

About Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

The **Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University**, located at 50 E. Congress Pkwy, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre. In September of 2014, the Auditorium Theatre was awarded the inaugural **Fifth Star Award** by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. On December 9, 2014, the Auditorium Theatre celebrated its 125th Birthday with a proclamation from the City of Chicago declaring it “**Auditorium Theatre Day**.”

The 2015 – 2016 Auditorium Theatre Season also includes [The Billy Strayhorn Festival](#), September 2 – November 21, 2015; [River North Dance Chicago](#), October 3, 2015; [Twyla Tharp – 50th Anniversary Tour](#), November 5 – 8, 2015; “[Lush Life: The Music of Billy Strayhorn](#)” [Gala and Performance](#), November 21, 2015; [Thodos Dance Chicago](#), January 9, 2016; “[Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah](#)”, January 16 – 17, 2016 ; [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), March 8 – 13, 2016; [Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal – “Leonce and Lena”](#), April 1 – 3, 2016; and [Giordano Dance Chicago](#), June 11, 2016. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click [here](#).

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The Auditorium Theatre is generously supported by the **MacArthur Foundation**, the **Illinois Arts Council**, the **Sage Foundation**, and the **Palmer House Hilton**. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call (312) 341-2310 or visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org](#).