

## ALFREDO RODRÍGUEZ

### QUOTES

"Now, Rodriguez's grace under pressure and talent for finding emotional truth in the split-second fall of a piano key has brought him to the verge of an improbable success story... Since moving stateside, Rodriguez has been receiving loud ovations and praise from fellow professionals at such venues as the Monterey and Playboy jazz festivals. Jones says that when he first heard Rodriguez play, 'it knocked me on my booty, man.'"

- ***Los Angeles Times***

"[Alfredo's] playing, proficient and soulful, projects a spirited, youthful charm."

- ***The New York Times***

"Cuban pianist Alfredo Rodriguez's 'El Güije' starts with a low, echoed rumble signaling the arrival of that tiny, bold, mythical troll Guije as if he were emerging from the halls of a Cuban dance club. As bassist Esperanza Spalding breezes along, percussion and piano spring up; she soars and sneaks down low, building and then hiding. Along the way, 'El Güije' tells a delightful story, with a sweet melody that stays with you."

- ***NPR***

"Of the non-originals, the standard 'Guantanamera' is the prize. Rodríguez's improvisation dances around the song's signature melody, losing it for lengthy stretches until you forget you've heard 'Guantanamera' a thousand times before. It's such an inventive retooling you may never want to hear it the old way again."

- ***JazzTimes***

"Alfredo Rodríguez's second album for Mack Avenue is a delightfully appealing sprawl. With his latest album, Rodríguez has constructed an engaging collage that makes it impossible to pigeonhole him."

- ***Downbeat***

"Alfredo Rodriguez is very talented young man. He is redefining his cultural DNA while embracing the full spectrum of colors one can hear."

- ***Mercedes-Benz***

"The Cuban jazz pianist/ composer and Quincy Jones protégé reveals a jaunty, restless vitality."

- ***USA Today***

"*The Invasion Parade* receives a four-star review in UK's FINANCIAL TIMES...A strong year for Caribbean-Jazz crossovers continues with this captivating release featuring US-based pianist Alfredo Rodríguez delving into the folklore and customs of his Cuban roots."

- ***Financial Times (UK)***

"His particular gift is to make ancient themes sound new...No wonder some important people are in Alfredo's corner. Quincy Jones is a fan, and making a guest appearance on double-bass and vocals is none other than the multi-award-winning Esperanza Spalding."

- ***London Evening Standard***

"...Alfredo Rodríguez and Quincy Jones make beautiful music together. The co-producers worked hard on reflecting Rodríguez' singular, conflicted voice in a kaleidoscope of past, present, future configurations that conjure up atonal, eclectic, hard-bop-sounding jazz mixes, and lush, classical treatments of atmospheric splendor."

- ***examiner.com***

"The astonishing 28-year-old Cuban-born piano virtuoso — discovered and mentored by Quincy Jones — has drawn comparisons to such pinnacles of jazz pianism as Art Tatum, Bill Evans, and Keith Jarrett."

- ***The Boston Globe***

"A UMS double bill! Rodriguez, a talented young Cuban pianist, is known for his riveting, virtuosic fusion of Latin music, classical, and jazz - an extraordinarily inventive sound."

- ***mlive.com*** (University of Michigan)

"RATING: 5 stars - Two of Afro-Cuban jazz's foremost exponents, Alfredo Rodriguez and Danilo Perez, have new releases. These two albums demonstrate the highest point in composition and performance of contemporary Latin jazz."

- ***The Australian***

"In a bravura set, Rodriguez, Slavov and Cole somehow managed to outdo themselves before the music stopped and the listeners applauded and rose to their feet."

- ***Ottawa Citizen***

"He's a versatile, fast-fingered, precocious musician...Cuban music has long brought rich rhythms and melodies to American jazz. This is the next great chapter in that development."

- ***Democrat & Chronicle***