

ARTURO O'FARRILL

QUOTES

"Arturo O'Farrill's Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra is one of the best jazz orchestras in existence, a powerhouse outfit whose precise section work is enhanced by thrilling soloists."

- **The New Yorker**

"Mr. O'Farrill has honed the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra to handle dizzyingly complex music with earthy joy."

- **The New York Times**

"Led by the Mexican-born pianist-son of the Cuban trumpeter **Chico O'Farrill**, this big band has been a New York blessing since the mid-Nineties. But Arturo, who started out as a teenager under the guidance and encouragement of the avant-jazz composer pianist **Carla Bley**, has a roving ear. For this year's Newport, he integrated the aggressive-Coltrane trills and swoons of saxophonist **Rudresh Mahanthappa** into the large-scale Latin Ellingtonia of this orchestra's "Afro Latin Jazz Suite." Mahanthappa's opening alto break and a flurry of bozer-like punches from the *congueros* slid into a Charlie Parker-ballad mood, then a bracing jolt forward as the *congueros* picked up speed and the brass flew overhead. My personal frame of reference: the brawn and nerve of the first big band I first heard and dug, led in the mid and late-Sixties by the late trumpeter **Don Ellis**, but here with less knotty time signatures and a lot more Havana."

- **David Fricke, *Rolling Stone*, review of 2015 Newport Jazz Festival performance**

"[T]he Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra [is a] remarkable New York institution."

- **The New York Times**

"If there is such a thing as a first family of Afro-Cuban jazz, the O'Farrill clan has a right to claim that distinction."

- **The New York Times**

"Mr. O'Farrill is a magnificent player... sharp, splashy, and driving."

- **The New York Times**

"The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra sounds great with precision brass and saxophone work.... a warm, cohesive sound...."

- **The New York Times**

"The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra fuels dancing and joy."

- **The Gilmore Festival**

"This is the finest band I have ever performed with in my life. They make me feel as if I have returned to Cuba."

- **Bebo Valdés**