

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Open Door (2015)

World Premiere (December 2, 2015)

Choreography: Ronald K. Brown

Associate Choreographer: Arcell Cabuag

Music: Luis Demetrio, Arturo O’Farrill, Tito Puente

Costumes: Keiko Voltaire

Lighting: Al Crawford

The creation of *Open Door* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

Acclaimed choreographer **Ronald K. Brown**’s Cuban-inspired *Open Door* is a work for 10 dancers set to the music of **Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra**, including songs from their recently released *Cuba: The Conversation Continues*. Recorded in Havana days after President Obama announced the normalization of relations between our countries, the album is hailed as “an ambitious statement that honors deeply held musical traditions while pushing forward” ([The New York Times](#)). Brown’s travels to Cuba inspired much of the movement, from the salsa partnering to the references to Elegba – the Santería god who opens pathways. The title hints at the power of dance and music as vehicles for culture and compassion. With its creation supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center, *Open Door* marks the sixth Ailey world premiere by Brown who has been applauded for his collaborations with the Company since *Grace* in 1999. As a choreographer, he is renowned for his signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms in works that often lead to deeper examinations of spirituality, community, responsibility and liberation.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s Matthew Rushing and Linda Celeste Sims in Ronald K. Brown’s *Open Door*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

Ronald K. Brown

Ronald K. Brown is an advocate for the growth of the African-American dance community and uses movement as a way to acquaint audiences with the beauty of traditional African forms and rhythms. Mr. Brown founded Brooklyn-based Evidence, A Dance Company in 1985 and has also set works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Jeune Ballet d’Afrique Noire, Ko-Thi Dance Company, Philadanco and others. Mr. Brown choreographed Regina Taylor’s award-winning play, *Crowns*, for which he won an AUDELCO Award. In addition, he has received a John Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Choreographers Fellowship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and a United States Artists Fellowship, among others.



Arturo O’Farrill & the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra

The Grammy Award-winning Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra (ALJO), led by renowned pianist, composer, and director Arturo O’Farrill, brings together the drama of big band jazz, the culture of Latin music, and the virtuosity of 18 of the world’s most accomplished solo musicians. 12 years of critically acclaimed performances internationally, have firmly established the ALJO as the standard-bearer for creative interpretation of Latin jazz greats such as Tito Puente, Frank “Machito” Grillo, and Chico O’Farrill, as well as the driving force behind new commissions from Latin music’s most talented composers and arrangers. Presenting programs that range from the very best in dance music sure to bring audiences to their feet, to repertoire that pushes the genre forward, the ALJO commissions and performs innovative compositions and big band arrangements by Vijay Iyer, Miguel Zenón, Dafnis Prieto, Guillermo Klein, Pablo Mayor, Arturo O’Farrill, Michele Rosewoman, Emilio Solla, Papo Vazquez, and many others.

Open Door
Music Credit Information

All music performed by: Arturo O'Farrill & the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra

Song: **La Puerta**

Composed by: Luis Demetrio

Song: **All of the Americas**, *second movement of Afro Latin Jazz Suite**

Composed by: Arturo O'Farrill

Song: **Vaca Frita***

Composed by: Arturo O'Farrill

Song: **Picadillo**

Composed by: Tito Puente

*From the album "*Cuba: The Conversation Continues*"