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**FRANCISCO MELA'S CUBAN SAFARI
DEBUTS PHILLY AT THE BRIDE FEBRUARY 19
AUDIENCES TAKE PASSAGE TO CUBA WITH...**

"One of the most important Cuban drummers in jazz"
- JazzTimes

"Mr. Mela is a bandleader on the rise."
- The New York Times

Philadelphia, PA – the Painted Bride's **Jazz on Vine series**, Philadelphia's longest continuing jazz series, presents Cuban drummer-composer **Francisco Mela** on **Saturday, February 19** at **8pm**. Mela debuts his sextet, **Cuban Safari** – an amalgamation of his favorite bands that inspired him to become a drummer--Miles Davis' fusion group featuring Chick Corea and Keith Jarrett, Weather Report, and the Latin-jazz super group Irakere. **Mela's Cuban Safari performance at the Bride will consist of saxophonist Uri Gurvich, Philly favorite pianist Elio Villafranca, bassist Peter Slavov, and percussionists Mauricio Herrera and Philly's own Arturo Stable.**

Tickets are \$25. To purchase tickets and show info, visit paintedbride.org, call the Box Office at 215-925-9914 or visit the Painted Bride Art Center, located at 230 Vine Street in Philadelphia. The box office is open Tuesday through Saturday, 12pm until 6pm. Crush Card holders receive a 20% discount. Students and seniors receive a 25% discount on tickets.

Since releasing two **CDs as a leader - *Melao* (AYVA Music - 2006) and *Cirio* (Half Note - 2008)**, which collectively featured luminaries such as Joe Lovano, Jason Moran, Anat Cohen, Lionel Loueke, Mark Turner - **Francisco Mela** has become one of the most in-demand drummers on the international jazz scene. He serves as the regular drummer for Joe Lovano's "Us Five" (set to release their second album on *Blue Note Records* next week), piano legend

~MORE~

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McCoy Tyner (a newly appointed position in Tyner's regular working group), distinguished Italian pianist Antonio Cicca, as well as fellow Cuban pianist and Quincy Jones' protégé, Alfredo Rodriguez. Additionally, he also became the new artistic director of the International Festival JAZZUV in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico in 2010. At the same time, Mela maintains a rigorous schedule composing, performing, and developing his own ensembles, including: Electric Safari, Havana Quartet (an Afro-Cuban jazz group with Pedro Martinez, Elio Villafranca and Luques Curtis), a new trio with Vijay Iyer and Larry Grenadier as well as Cuban Safari.

**Francisco Mela's Cuban Safari
@ the Painted Bride Arts Center
Saturday, February 19
Set at [8pm](#)**

Francisco Mela, drums
Uri Gurvich, sax
Elio Villafranca, piano
Petar Slavov, bass
Mauricio Herrera, percussion
Arturo Stable, percussion

Painted Bride Art Center
230 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone - (215) 925-9914

Press note:

For additional information, fact confirmation, schedule an artist interview, or press tickets call Phil Sumpter, Director of Marketing & Communications at (215) 925-9914 ext. 15