



For Immediate Release

**HARLEM QUARTET AND CUBAN PIANIST ALDO LÓPEZ-GAVILÁN
LAUNCH MUSIC AT KOHL MANSION'S 39TH SEASON OCTOBER 31
WITH CLASSICAL SCHUMANN AND DAZZLING AFRO-CUBAN JAZZ MUSIC;
BAY AREA APPEARANCE COINCIDES WITH SCREENING OF *LOS HERMANOS*,
FILM ABOUT BROTHERS & VIRTUOSO MUSICIANS ALDO AND ILMAR GAVILÁN**



Tickets Now on Sale; www.musicatkohl.org or (650) 762-1130

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdiGXL9FeFk>

Burlingame, CA (September 15, 2021) — **Music at Kohl Mansion** welcomes back the Grammy Award-winning **Harlem Quartet** and, in his local debut with the ensemble, Cuban virtuoso pianist/composer **Aldo López-Gavilán**, on Sunday, October 31, for what promises to be an extraordinary concert of genre-blending programming with Robert Schumann's masterpiece, the Piano Quintet in F-Major, Op. 44; four original works set in a distinctive Afro-Cuban style by López-Gavilán; and arrangements by López-Gavilán of Dizzy Gillespie's immortal "A Night in Tunisia," and Billy Strayhorn's jazz standard, "Take the 'A' Train."

The return of the critically acclaimed Harlem Quartet with Aldo López-Gavilán, brother of the Quartet's first violinist, **Ilmar Gavilán**, and **Melissa White**, violin, **Jaime Amador**, viola, and **Felix Umansky**, cello, marks the opening of Music at Kohl Mansion's 2021-22 season and the organization's first live, indoor performance in 20 months due to COVID-19 health and safety mandates.

In related news, Music at Kohl Mansion in partnership with the **San Mateo Public Library** will present a screening about siblings Aldo López-Gavilán and Ilmar Gavilán, *Los Hermanos/The Brothers*, "an electrifying and moving documentary with generous amounts of music..." on Friday, October 29 at 4.00 p.m. Created and directed by the Bay Area's award-winning filmmakers **Marcia Jarmel** and **Ken Schneider**, both Jarmel and Schneider will be interviewed after the screening about their 18-month

project filming brothers Aldo and Ilmar, juxtaposed to evolving U.S. – Cuba political relations. The film includes appearances by celebrated violinist **Joshua Bell** and the Harlem Quartet.

On Saturday, Oct 30 at 3 p.m., the San Mateo Public Library will host the Harlem Quartet in a one-hour conversation with music excerpts. Both public events are presented free of charge at the San Mateo Public Library, 55 West Third Avenue, San Mateo.

Marcia Jarmel commented, “We are thrilled to be presenting our film at the same time music audiences and students will have the opportunity to hear the brothers, and Harlem Quartet members perform live. For us that's the gold standard— the music informs the film's moving story. The film informs the audience's experience of the music. So much is communicated in the music itself.”

Los Hermanos/The Brothers opened at select film festivals earlier this year and is soon to air nationwide on PBS TV. The documentary has garnered an array of enthusiastic press including “Nothing short of magical; lightning in a bottle” (Alliance of Women Film Journalists) and “An Oscar caliber film for the family and one not-to-be missed.” (WCBS Radio)

In a recent interview with National Public Radio, violinist Ilmar Gavilán said, “Music itself is a phenomenon that unites people and makes you feel the common humanity in all of us. And music, in our case, is beyond politics.”

New York-based Harlem Quartet, currently quartet-in-residence at London’s Royal College of Music, has been praised for its “panache” by *The New York Times* and hailed in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* for “bringing a new attitude to classical music, one that is fresh, bracing and intelligent.” It has also won plaudits from such veteran musicians as Grammy-winning woodwind virtuoso Ted Nash of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, who declared in a May 2018 *Playbill* article, the “Harlem Quartet is one of the greatest string quartets I have ever heard. They can play anything.” Since its public debut at Carnegie Hall in 2006, the ensemble has thrilled audiences and students in 47 states as well as in the U.K., France, Belgium, Brazil, Panama, Canada, Venezuela, Japan, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

The Harlem Quartet has three distinctive characteristics: diverse programming that combines music from the standard string quartet canon with jazz, Latin, and contemporary works; a collaborative approach to performance that is continually broadening the ensemble’s repertoire and audience reach through artistic partnerships with other musicians from the classical and jazz worlds; and an ongoing commitment to residency activity and other forms of educational outreach.

The quartet’s recording career began in 2007 when White Pine Music issued *Take the “A” Train*, a release featuring the string quartet version of that jazz standard by Billy Strayhorn. A second CD, featuring three string quartets by Walter Piston, was released in 2010 by Naxos. The quartet’s third recording, released in 2011, is a collaboration with pianist Awadagin Pratt and showcases works by American composer Judith Lang Zaimont. More recently the quartet collaborated with jazz pianist Chick Corea in a Grammy-winning *Hot House* album that included Corea’s “Mozart Goes Dancing,” which won a separate Grammy as Best Instrumental Composition. The jazz album *Heart of Brazil: A Tribute to Egberto Gismonti*, recorded with the Eddie Daniels Quartet, was released in June 2018 on

Resonance Records. Harlem Quartet's latest album, the July 2020 release *Cross Pollination*, features music by Debussy, William Bolcom, Dizzy Gillespie, and Guido López-Gavilán, Ilmar and Aldo's father.

The Harlem Quartet was founded in 2006 by the prestigious and acclaimed Sphinx Organization, a national nonprofit dedicated to building diversity in classical music and providing access to music education in underserved communities.

Following the Harlem Quartet, Music at Kohl Mansion's 39th Season will continue its Sunday Concerts at 7 p.m. with the **Rolston Quartet** (November 21); the **Lee Trio** (December 12); the **Mesa-Yakushev** cello and piano duo (January 16); **Ida Kavafian, Peter Wiley and members of the Curtis Institute of Music** (February 13); **Musicians from the San Francisco Symphony** (March 6); and **Quatuor Danel** (April 10).

TICKETS: Season tickets for the full 7-concert series are still available; subscriptions are \$307 (General), \$292 (Senior) and \$107 (age 30 and under). Single tickets for individual concerts are \$52 (General), \$49 (Senior) and \$22 (age 30 and under). To purchase tickets, visit www.musicatkohl.org or call the Music at Kohl Mansion Box Office, (650) 762-1130.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS: With a return to live, indoor performances in Kohl Mansion's Great Hall, all audience members will be required to show proof of full vaccination prior to entry to the live concert. All staff and members of the public are required to wear a facial covering at all times while indoors. In order to allow for social distancing, Music at Kohl Management will reduce its indoor seating to a maximum of 60% of capacity. Convenient public hand sanitizing stations will be provided.

All programs, artists and COVID-19 health and safety protocols are subject to change. Music at Kohl Mansion is located at 2750 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. For additional information about Music at Kohl Mansion, visit www.musicatkohl.org or phone (650) 762-1130.

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Photos of Season Artists and Music at Kohl Mansion Leadership: <https://musicatkohl.org/for-press/>

Harlem Quartet w/Aldo López-Gavilán: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdiGXL9FeFk>