


Paquito D'Rivera

“Whether playing Bach or post-bop, D’Rivera’s mastery of the instruments and their expressive capabilities is unquestionable.”
-Classical New Jersey

“D’Rivera is the only musician I know on the scene playing real Latin jazz, all others are playing Afro-Cuban jazz.”
-Mario Bauza

A photograph of Paquito D'Rivera, a man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a light-colored suit, a white hat, and a watch. He is leaning against the front of a classic blue car with chrome accents. The car's grille has the word "Balboa" written on it. The background is plain white.

Paquito D'Rivera defies categorization. The winner of nine GRAMMY Awards, he is celebrated both for his artistry in Latin jazz and his achievements as a classical composer. He is also the first artist to win Latin GRAMMYs in both Classical and Latin Jazz categories. His numerous recordings include more than 30 solo albums. In 1988, he was a founding member of the United Nation Orchestra, a 15-piece ensemble organized by Dizzy Gillespie to showcase the fusion of Latin and Caribbean influences with jazz. D'Rivera continues to appear as guest conductor of that group which features such artists as James Moody, Slide Hampton, Airta Moreira, Flora Purim, Jon Faddis, Steve Turre, and others. A GRAMMY was awarded the United Nation Orchestra in 1991, the same year D'Rivera received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Carnegie Hall.

2008 awards include the International Association for Jazz Education President's Award, the Frankfurter Musikpreis, and a Doctorate Honoris Causa in Music from the University of Pennsylvania.

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