

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS
Boyer College of Music and Dance

**Small Jazz Ensemble:
The Elio Villafranca Ensemble**

April 7, 2025
The Art of Bread Café

Monday
12:30 PM
1:15 PM
2:00 PM

About the Artist

Born in the Pinar del Río province of Cuba, Steinway Artist, Grammy Nominated, and 2014 Jalc Millennium Swing Award! recipient pianist and composer **ELIO VILAFRANCA** was classically trained in percussion and composition at the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba.

Since his arrival in the U.S. in mid 1995, Villafranca is at the forefront of the latest generation of remarkable pianists, composers and bandleaders. Last year, Villafranca was among the 5 pianists handpicked by Chick Corea to perform at the first Chick Corea Jazz Festival, curated by Chick himself at JALC. He also received a 2010 Grammy Nomination in the Best Latin Jazz Album of the Year category. In 2008 The Jazz Corner nominated Villafranca as pianist of the year. That year, Villafranca was also honored by BMI with the BMI Jazz Guaranty Award and received the first NFA/Heineken Green Ribbon Master Artist Music Grant for the creation of his Concerto for Mariachi, for Afro-Cuban Percussion and Symphony Orchestra. Finally, his first album, *Incantations/Encantaciones*, featuring Pat Martino, Terell Stafford, and Dafnis Prieto was ranked amongst the 50 best jazz albums of the year by JazzTimes magazine in 2003. Villafranca's new album *Caribbean Tinge* (Motema), received a 2014 Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik Nomination by the German Records Critics Award, as well has been selected by JazzTimes and DownBeat magazines for a feature on their very competitive section Editor's Pick.

Over the years, Villafranca has recorded and performed nationally and internationally as a leader, featuring jazz master artists such as Pat Martino, Terell Stafford, Billy Hart, Paquito D'Rivera, Eric Alexander, and Lewis Nash, among other. As a sideman, Elio Villafranca has collaborated with leading jazz and Latin jazz artists including: Wynton Marsalis, Chick Corea, Jon Faddis, Billy Harper, Sonny Fortune, Giovanni Hidalgo, Miguel Zenón, and Johnny Pacheco among others. He is based in New York City, and he is a faculty member of Temple University, Philadelphia and The Juilliard School of Music, NYC.

Three hundred thirtieth, thirty-first, and thirty-second performances
of the 2024-2025 season.



Program

Selections will be announced from the stage