

# BRAITHWAITE & KATZ

Communications

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Alto saxophonist Miguel Zenón and pianist Luis Perdomo return with *El Arte Del Bolero Vol. 2*, the follow-up to their acclaimed duo debut focusing on the Latin-American Songbook**

**Digital release available August 25, 2023 via Miel Music**

“Endlessly listenable, emotionally probing, and ECM-level atmospheric, *El Arte del Bolero* is a treasure box you’ll return to again and again.” – Morgan Enos, *JazzTimes*

A few years ago, in the midst of the pandemic, alto saxophonist and MacArthur Fellow **Miguel Zenón** and acclaimed pianist **Luis Perdomo** got together to play a few of their favorite tunes during an impromptu duo session. The results were spectacular, and they decided to release the music as an album which earned wide critical acclaim including a place as the #1 Latin Jazz Recording of the Year in the 2021 Jazz Critics Poll. The follow-up to that recording, ***El Arte Del Bolero Vol. 2***, is slated for digital release **August 25, 2023** via Miel Music.

The title references the beauty of the Latin-American Songbook and the Bolero in particular. The new album expands on the initial concept while maintaining the intent of playing songs the artists know and love. The process of choosing the repertoire began with the question, “*Tu sabes que canción es bien buena?*” (“You know which song is really good?”). Discussions about which versions to study, which keys to use, and which arrangements were the most inspirational followed.

Melding their jazz sensibilities with the original spirit of the music, Zenón and Perdomo deliver alluring, forward-thinking performances while keeping the songs center stage. “The Latin-American Songbook is so vast and varied that it naturally lends itself to limitless explorations,” says Zenón in the liner notes. “We purposely looked beyond the Caribbean (exploring composers from México, Venezuela and Panamá, for example) because we wanted to emphasize the point that these songs deserved to be explored and recognized for what they are, beyond labels, categories and regionalisms. Just beautiful music that is a joy to perform and listen to.”

### **About The Music**

- **En La Oscuridad**: From the songbook of the great Tito Rodríguez, this song features a unique melody/harmony combo that is always fun to play on. I personally discovered this song while still a very young music student in Puerto Rico, on the album *A Dos Tiempos de Un Tiempo*, a wonderful Tito Rodríguez tribute by Gilberto Santa Rosa.

- **Paula C**: A modern classic by the great Rubén Blades, first recorded on the 1978 album *Louie Ramírez y sus Amigos*. The original is faster and more dance-oriented, so we decided to slow it down and expand on the form a bit. It ended up providing the perfect platform for improvisation and musical conversation.

- **En La Soledad:** Another beautiful song from the Tito Rodríguez songbook. We play it here entirely out of time, extending the melodic phrases and harmonic flow. After some collective free-improv over various pedal points, we come back to the theme before closing out the piece.

- **Motivos:** This one was suggested by Luis, a gorgeous melody that he grew up listening to in his native Venezuela. There are many wonderful versions of this song to explore, my personal favorite coming from *La Rondalla Venezolana*.

- **Caballo Viejo:** A timeless piece of music which has been covered extensively by various artists spanning a wide range of musical genres. It was written by master songwriter Simón Díaz, perhaps the most widely recognized Venezuelan composer of his time. Towards the tail end of this version we introduce elements from the outro to Keith Jarrett's take of "Moon and Sand," a piece we both know and love.

- **Mucho Corazón:** Written by Eva Elena Valdelamar, the great Mexican songwriter who penned this when she was still a teenager. We used Benny Moré's version as one of our main sources of inspiration and experimented with the harmonic progression at different points within the form.

- **Silencio:** An amazing piece of music from the creative mind of Puerto Rican legend Rafael Hernández. We recorded this piece with a larger ensemble on the 2012 album *Alma Adentro: The Puerto Rican Songbook* and decided to revisit it here. Our version uses the triplet as its main source of rhythmic information and it's perhaps the most intricate arrangement of all the songs on this album. This is truly a beautiful piece of music and felt like the perfect way to close out the record.

### **About Miguel Zenón**

A multiple Grammy® nominee and Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow, Zenón is one of a select group of musicians who have masterfully balanced and blended the often-contradictory poles of innovation and tradition. Widely considered one of the most groundbreaking and influential saxophonists of his generation, Zenón has also developed a unique voice as a composer and as a conceptualist, concentrating his efforts on perfecting a fine mix between Jazz and his many influences. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Zenón has recorded and toured with a wide variety of musicians including Charlie Haden, Fred Hersch, David Sánchez, Danilo Pérez, Kenny Werner, Bobby Hutcherson and The SFJAZZ Collective.

### **About Luis Perdomo**

Originally from Venezuela, Grammy® nominated pianist, composer, arranger and educator Luis Perdomo moved to NYC in the early 90s and has since established himself as one of the most in-demand musicians on the scene. He has recorded and/or performed with Ravi Coltrane, David Sanchez, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band, Tom Harrell, John Patitucci, Ray Barretto, Brian Lynch, Robin Eubanks, Dave Douglas, David Weiss and The Cookers, David Gilmore, Ralph Irizarry & Timbalaye, Henry Threadgill and Steve Turre. He has collaborated with Miguel Zenón for 20 years. Perdomo has performed at festivals and venues in over 50 countries and has released nine recordings as a leader. He has also appeared on over 200 recordings as a sideman including, most recently, two Grammy nominated albums: Ravi Coltrane's *Spirit Fiction* and Miguel Zenón's *Sonero*. In 2002 he earned the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Prix at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Martial Solal Jazz Piano Competition in Paris.

*El Arte Del Bolero Vol. 2* is available on all digital platforms including Miguel's [Bandcamp page](#).

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[www.miguelzenon.com](http://www.miguelzenon.com)  
[www.luisperdomojazz.com](http://www.luisperdomojazz.com)

**Miguel Zenón & Luis Perdomo**

*“El Arte Del Bolero Vol.2”*

1. En La Oscuridad (Rafael Solano Sánchez/ Peer International Corp.) - 6:57
2. Paula C (Rubén Blades/ Rubén Blades Pub.) - 8:17
3. En La Soledad (Puchi Balseiro/ Peer International Corp.) - 5:42
4. Motivos (Italo Pizzolante/ Leo Musical, S.A. De C.V.) - 7:52
5. Caballo Viejo (Simón Díaz/ Wc Music Corp.) - 8:01
6. Mucho Corazón (Eva Elena Valdelamar/ Peer International Corp.) - 6:36
7. Silencio (Rafael Hernández Marín/ Peer International Corp.) - 7:41

**Miguel Zenón** - alto saxophone

**Luis Perdomo** - piano

Recorded at Big Orange Sheep (Brooklyn, NY) May 16th, 2023

By Michael Perez-Cisneros

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