2001 AZ-PAS Spring Day of Percussion 2001
Guest Artist Concert

Presented by

Yamaha Drums, Yamaha Concert Percussion, Latin
Percussion, Sabian Cymbal Co., Evans Drumheads, Remo,
Inc., Vic Firth Sticks, Audix Microphones, Milano's Music,
The Arizona Commission on the Arts,
AZ-PAS, and the ASU School of Music

Orlando Cotto, Marimba

and

Talking Drums: David Garibaldi,
Michael Spiro and Jesus Diaz

Assisted by ASU School of Music
Faculty Artist
Katie McLin, violin

Friday, March 2nd, 2001
7:30 pm
Music Theatre
Orlando Cotto
Orlando Cotto first learned to play congas in his native Puerto Rico when he was just 5 years old. Since that time, he has developed a respected music career as a percussionist. Passionate about the traditional music of Puerto Rico, Orlando began performing professionally when he was 12 years old. He graduated Cum Laude from Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico (CMPR) and he chose to concentrate on marimba in his graduate study. In 1997, Orlando was the first marimbist to receive the Artist Diploma in the 100-year history of the Peabody Conservatory of Music. A musician with many honors and awards, Orlando was the Winner of the 1995 Yale Gordon Concerto Competition and Semifinalist at the 2000 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Hand Drum Competition. He was also awarded the Individual Artist Award in Solo Instrumental Performance from Maryland State Arts Council, the most outstanding student from both the Pro Arte Ferdman Grant and the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

According to the San Juan Star, Orlando is "an artist of musical sensitivity and accomplished technique". He has traveled extensively in the U.S., Central and South American performing recitals and conducting workshops. As the lead conga player with Rumba Club, a Baltimore-based Latin Jazz band, Orlando and his sizzling performance can be seen at the most popular venues in town. As a marimbist, Orlando brings together his solid classical training and his strong Latin American background to create a powerful combination of rhythm and music previously uncharted in the marimba world, as evidenced in his debut recording, Caribeños - Latin American Music for the Marimba.

During his career, Orlando has recorded with the Puerto Rican tres player Edwin Colón Zayas, guitarist Ernesto Tamayo, jazz trumpeter Pharez Whitted, Rumba Club, and the San Juan Pop Orchestra. Orlando began his percussion instruction with José Torres, principal percussionist of the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra. He graduated Cum Laude with Bachelor in Music in percussion from CMPR where he studied with José Alicea. Subsequently, he studied at Indiana University at Bloomington. While at Peabody, Orlando was a student of marimba virtuoso William Moersch. His other teachers have included marimba virtuoso Leigh Howard Stevens, Rebecca Kite, Jonathan Haas, and Keiko Abe.
David Garibaldi and Talking Drums

As a member of Tower of Power for ten years, David Garibaldi recorded 11 albums, including two gold records. He has since performed and/or recorded with Natalie Cole, Larry Carlton, Boz Scaggs, The Yellowjackets and many others. His book, "Future Sounds" was rated top 10 of the great drum books by Modern Drummer Magazine. He resides as a permanent member of that magazine's "honor roll" category.

Joining Garibaldi in "Talking Drums" is Michael Spiro and Jesus Diaz. Both of these highly acclaimed Afro-Cuban percussionists bring extensive credentials of performance and recording credits. Between them, they have performed with Carlos Santana, Bobby McFerrin, Andy Narell, Dizzy Gillespie, John Santos, Pete Escovedo, Sheila E and Tito Puente.

"Talking Drums" is a new concept in rhythms never before done. The trio combines "the drumset wizardry of David Garibaldi with the Latin Percussion artistry of Spiro and Diaz" (Modern Drummer, Oct. '95). As a trio they have already performed in the United States and Canada at clinics, workshops and various events. They are featured on Garibaldi's instructional video "Talking Drums" (Warner Bros./CPP Media - 1995), and have performed at various drum festivals and exhibitions around the world.