

DAFNIS PRIETO SEXTET | TRIANGLES AND CIRCLES | PRESS QUOTES

“Dafnis Prieto has been one of the most impressive musicians in New York jazz over the past 15 years. Whatever band he’s playing in, at some point the rigor of his playing commands you to focus directly on him. Each stroke of each different rhythm, from each different limb, feels exact, efficient, full of intent. His style of composition explicitly puts the ensemble first. He writes pieces of music with great balance, in which one whirling ensemble section flows into the next, each containing a new melodic strain and just enough space for a soloist to make a mark over a vamp, then stop before indirection sets in. His sextet is full of fluid improvisers, but they’re tightly managed.” —Ben Ratliff, **The New York Times**

“The Cuban drummer Dafnis Prieto — also a composer, bandleader and 2011 MacArthur fellow, and an adopted New Yorker of long standing — has a vision for Latin jazz that hurtles in multiple directions at once. *Triangles and Circles* features an ace sextet with a smartly pugnacious front line: His pieces, full of sharp turns and jostling counterpoint, highlight the hair-trigger reflexes of the musicians, and yet everyone finds room to breathe. And even when a tune seems to hinge on a concept the music stays grounded, packed with incident and forward purpose.”
—Nate Chinen, **The New York Times**

“Dafnis Prieto is a technical virtuoso who can send jaws tumbling to the floor with his own very original fusion of Afro-Cuban grooves and gnarly post-bop rhythms, flawlessly executed in a blur of hands and sticks. But it’s the bold musical vision and compositional ambition that really set the New York-based percussionist apart, and put him and his talented sextet at the cutting edge of what some are calling Pan-American jazz. The band burns with a white heat, nailing the leader’s complex but always approachable charts and soloing with passion and purpose.”
—Cormac Larkin, **The Irish Times**

“Dafnis Prieto's music is about more than intricate rhythm. He writes good melodies too, putting tuneful figures through inversions and variations, much like his drum patterns.”
—Kevin Whitehead, **Fresh Air/NPR**

“Dafnis Prieto has an infectious dedication to the Afro-Cuban groove, and it’s on full display with his latest recording, *Triangles And Circles*. The album shimmers and swells with his heart-pounding drum work, but it’s wrapped by beautiful melodic structure and thoughtful compositions that draw from a broad musical ocean. ...all deliver killer solos, but not at the expense of the grand vision of the song. That’s the magic of Prieto: He has the ability to offer compositions and arrangements that are distinctly him, but he craftily leaves room for pedal-to-the-metal improvisation from a truly great band.” —**Down Beat Editors’ Pick**