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Hudson Opera House Presents an Evening of Jazz with the Paul Carlon Octet

HUDSON (October 17, 2008) - Paul Carlon returns to the Hudson Opera House with an evening of jazz on Saturday, October 25 at 8:00 p.m. with his Octet plus vocalist Christelle Durandy for a set of gritty Ellington/Mingus-influenced swing, Afro-Cuban timba and rumba and hardcore NYC jazz. The group performed to a packed house at the HOH in past years. Tickets for the performance are \$15, \$12 for HOH members.

For this concert, the group will be performing material from their newest CD, **Roots Propaganda**, where the ensemble imagines a meeting of the worlds of Duke Ellington, Miles Davis and Gil Evans' *Sketches of Spain*, and the Yoruban orixas. The ensemble will also include material from their first CD, **Other Tongues**, as well as newly-penned originals and fresh arrangements.

Paul Carlon Octet has recently been featured on NPR's Morning Edition and All Things Considered, and was chosen as a Global Hit on PRI's program The World. In addition the Octet was featured in August at Summerstage in NYC's Central Park, guesting with Max Pollak's dance/music troupe Rumbatap.

The group was formed in the spring of 2002 as part of a multimedia performance project with visual artist Joan Carlon (Paul's mother) called *Where is Home?* The theme of this project is the way immigration disrupts, reshapes and redirects the lives of people who come to the United States from all over the world. The Octet, with the addition of Afro-Cuban/tap dance pioneer Max Pollak, has performed an extended version of the *Where Is Home?* suite at the jazz club Small's in the West Village, NYC, at El Taller Latinoamericano on New York's upper West Side, and at the Delavan Center in Syracuse, NY.

The group has also performed on its own in NYC club settings, such as at the Soul Café, El Taller Latinoamericano, Makor Café, and at 24 Fifth Avenue, a historic ballroom in the heart of Greenwich Village. In 2005 the group performed several shows at the world music club Satalla in NYC, with the addition of vocalist Ileana Santamaría. Daughter of the legendary Cuban percussionist Mongo Santamaría, Ileana brings a fiery and dynamic stage presence and folkloric slant to the group's performances. The shows at Satalla were a resounding success, mixing elements of concert performance with a more dance-oriented club atmosphere. The Octet released its first full-length CD, **Other Tongues**, in 2006.

Originally from Guadeloupe, young vocalist Christelle Durandy brings a wide knowledge of Afro-Cuban music and the Paris jazz and world music scenes to her performances with the Octet. Her training as a jazz vocalist and deep feel for the Afro-Latin traditions are a perfect match for the group's eclectic repertoire. She has studied

and recorded with Ivan Darrroman Montoya in Cuba, and has also worked with Carlos "El Bola" Betancourt, Baptiste Trotignon, Jo Benoti, Edouard Leys, Karl W. Davis and The Milkmen, and Company Erebe-Kouliballets.

The Paul Carlon Octet includes many of NYC's established young jazz and Latin jazz artists featuring vocals by **Christelle Durandy, Alex Norris** on trumpet, **Noah Bless and Ryan Keberle** on trombones, **Paul Carlon** on tenor and soprano saxophones, mbira, and flute, **Anton Denner** on alto saxophone and flute, **John Stenger** on piano, **Edward Perez** on bass, and **William "Beaver" Bausch** on drums.

A native of rural central New York, saxophonist and composer **Paul Carlon** has been lauded for his "original style" (Peter Watrous, [New York Times](#)). Paul has been active on the New York City jazz and Latin jazz scenes for fifteen years, performing with and/or composing for Harvie S, Phil Bowler & Pocket Jungle, the Jason Lindner Big Band, the late Afro-Cuban star Juan Pablo Torres, Grupo los Santos, James Hurt, Rumbatap Dance Company, Sonido Isleño, the Ileana Santamaría Orchestra, Swingadelic, Gary Morgan's Panamericana, Clave y Guaguancó, and Phil Woods, as well as leading his own groups. Carlon recorded with JP Torres on his all-star CD Together Again in 2000, alongside such stars of Latin jazz as Arturo Sandoval, Chucho Valdes, Giovanni Hidalgo, and Steve Turre. Carlon has performed at regional, national and international music festivals, including the JVC Jazz Festival in NYC, the Cuba Without Frontiers festival at The Town Hall, NYC, the Cuba Tambor! Festival 2001 in Havana, Cuba, the BarranquiJazz Festival in Barranquilla, Colombia, the 2006 Latin in Manhattan Festival at Dizzy's Club Coca Cola in NYC, and the 2006 Park City Jazz Festival in Park City, Utah. He has appeared in film, radio and on TV. His film appearances include the documentaries *Latido Latino*, made for Spanish public television, and *Cómo se forma una rumba/How to Create a Rumba*, by Iván Acosta (shown at Lincoln Center as part of Latin Beat 2001!). One of Carlon's original songs, 'Soul Soliloquy', found a home in filmmaker Kern Konwiser's street basketball documentary *On Hallowed Ground*, originally aired on the TNT Television Network in May of 2000. Paul also recently completed a Master's Degree in music composition at The City College of New York, where he studied with Mike Holober, John Patitucci and American master David Del Tredici.

Visit www.paulcarlonmusic.com or www.myspace.com/paulcarlonoctet for more information about the ensemble.

Hudson Opera House, built in 1855 as the City Hall for Hudson, is a non-profit multi-arts center offering numerous programs for adults and children, many of which are free. For further information about this event or programs, please call the Opera House at (518) 822-1438 or visit the website at www.hudsonoperahouse.org. The Hudson Opera House is located at 327 Warren Street.

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