



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Poncho Sanchez Returns

Willimantic, Conn. – The 2007–2008 Arts and Lecture Series closes with a bang — a concert by Poncho Sanchez, internationally-acclaimed conguero and leader in the bedrock style of jazz. Sanchez will perform in Shafer Auditorium on March 6 at 7 p.m. Sanchez’s numerous albums and international tours testify to his standing as one of the most important and influential jazz artists of the day.

“Our main goal is always to keep Latin jazz alive, growing and moving, while being authentic to the music that we love,” says the Grammy Award-winning musician. “As I always say, this music is not just for Latin people. It is American music. It is for everybody!”

Sanchez’s 22 albums and international tours testify to his standing as one of the most important and influential jazz artists of the day. He has appeared on the covers of such publications as “Jazz Times” and the international “Jazz Education Journal.”

Sanchez’s latest album, “Raise Your Hand,” has met with widespread acclaim. Other recent albums range from his covers of vintage James Brown on “A Night At Kimball’s East” to the tasty New Orleans stylings of “Latin Spirits.”

Sanchez was born into the Chicano neighborhoods of Laredo, TX, one of 11 children. His family soon moved to southern California, where he grew up in the town of Norwalk. As a high school student in the late 1960s, his love of music grew as he

performed as a stand-up singer at high school dances and weddings. In addition to listening to Latin jazz giants such as Tito Puente, Cal Tjader, Tito Rodriguez, and Mongo Santamaria, Sanchez also covered songs by James Brown and other R&B musicians. He also began experimenting with the Afro-Cuban rhythms of “boogaloo,” a new cross-over style that blended Latino and African music with English lyrics. Artists such as Willie Bobo, Johnny Colon, Joe Cuba, and Joey Pastrano helped craft the new style.

CAPTION: Poncho Sanchez

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state’s public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

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