

MARCH 27

8 PM FRIDAY

**MEMORIAL HALL
BEASLEY-CURTIS AUDITORIUM**

**APPROXIMATELY 110 MINUTES,
INCLUDING INTERMISSION**

*VISIONS
FOR
FRIDA
KAHLO*
**MELISSA
ALDANA**

MELISSA ALDANA, saxophone

SAM HARRIS, piano

PABLO MENARES, bass

JIMMY MACBRIDE, drums

MOTEMA MUSIC, animations



PHOTO BY HARRISON WEINSTEIN

STUDENT TICKET ANGEL FUND BENEFACTORS
PAULA NOELL & PALMER PAGE

“THIS WAS A PERFORMANCE SO FULL OF FRESHNESS AND POISE THAT, WATCHING IT, YOU COULD NOT HELP BUT BE CONVINCED YOU WERE WITNESSING A FUTURE STAR.”

—JAZZWISE MAGAZINE

BORN IN SANTIAGO, CHILE,

Melissa Aldana began playing the saxophone at the age of six under the influence and tutelage of her father, professional saxophonist Marcos Aldana. Aldana began with alto, influenced by artists such as Charlie Parker, Cannonball Adderley, and Michael Brecker. However, after hearing the music of Sonny Rollins, she switched to tenor, first playing a Selmer Mark VI model saxophone that had belonged to her grandfather.

“One of the most exciting tenor saxophonists today,” (*New York Times*) Aldana started performing in Santiago jazz clubs in her early teens. She went on to attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where her tutors included Joe Lovano, George Garzone, and Frank Tiberi, amongst others. After graduating and moving to New York City, she recorded her first album, *Free Fall*, and began performing at renowned venues, including the Blue Note Jazz Club and the Monterey Jazz Festival. In 2013, at the age of 24, Aldana was the first female musician and the first South American musician to win the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition. The prize was a \$25,000 scholarship and a recording contract with Concord Jazz. Reporting her win, the *Washington Post* described Aldana as representing “a new sense of possibility and direction in jazz.”

In addition, Aldana has been awarded the Altazor National Arts Award of Chile and the Lincoln Center’s Martin E. Segal Award. She has played concerts alongside artists such as Peter Bernstein, Kevin Hays, Christian McBride, and Jeff “Tain” Watts, and many festivals including the Copenhagen Jazz Festival, Twin Cities Jazz Festival, and Providencia Jazz Festival in Chile. She also performed with Jimmy Heath at the 2014 NEA Jazz Masters Award Ceremony, and was invited to Jazz at Lincoln Center by Wynton Marsalis.

Aldana’s first performance with Carolina Performing Arts, *Visions for Frida Kahlo* features music from Aldana’s album *Visions* with accompanying conceptual, animated videos filled with color, texture, and light in the style of Latin-American magical realism. These animations, crafted into narratives about different aspects of Frida Kahlo’s life, use elements of reality (abstract or figurative), but transform them into pieces inspired by parts of Frida’s works, such as desert nature, landscapes, flowers, hearts, costumes, the sun, and the moon. Both the content and the style of the animations pay homage to Kahlo’s immense contributions to surrealist art. •

Read more about Kahlo’s influence on other artists on p. 56.