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**RIALTO CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2006-07 ANNIVERSARY SEASON
CONTINUES WITH LATIN MUSIC LEGEND, PIANIST, EDDIE PALMIERI**

**CELEBRATE EDDIE PALMIERI'S 70TH BIRTHDAY AND 50 YEARS OF MUSIC
AT THE RIALTO ON NOVEMBER 18**

(ATLANTA) – Georgia State University's Rialto Center for the Arts continues its 2006-07 season with Latin Jazz and Salsa music legend Eddie Palmieri, Saturday, November 18 at 8 p.m. Pianist and band leader Eddie Palmieri's pioneering musical career spans 50 years as a bandleader of salsa and Latin jazz orchestras. His discography includes more than 32 titles. He has been awarded eight Grammys, including the first presentation in the Best Latin Album category for his 1975 release *The Sun of Latin Music*, and the following year for *Unfinished Masterpiece*. *Palo Pa' Rumba* won in 1984, *Solito* in 1985 and *La Verdad* in 1987. He received two Grammys for his 2000 release with Tito Puente *Obra Maestra/Masterpiece*—one from the traditional Grammy awards and one from the Latin Grammys.

Tickets are \$36-\$62 and are available at the Rialto Center's box office, (404) 651-4727 or www.rialtocenter.org. Group and Georgia State University student discounts are offered for this show. This show is presented in collaboration with Woodruff Arts Center's Celebrate Diversity through the Arts Initiative and the National Black Arts Festival.

Eddie Palmieri was awarded the Eubie Blake Award by Dr. Billy Taylor in 1991 and he is among the few Latin musicians recognized by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico and the New York State Assembly. In 1988, the Smithsonian Institution recorded two of Palmieri's performances for their catalog of the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., a rare public honor.

As a member of the New York chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), he was instrumental in creating a new category for Latin Jazz in 1995. His 1994 album, *Palmas*, was among the nominees for the first award presented in that category in March 1995. In 1996, he was once again nominated for his album *Arete*. In 2006, NARAS awarded Eddie Palmieri's newest release, *Listen Here!*, the Grammy in

the "Best Latin Jazz Album" category. This was Eddie Palmieri's 8th Grammy in his over 50 year musical career and was awarded on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Born in Spanish Harlem in 1936, Palmieri began piano studies at an early age, as did his celebrated older brother, the late salsa legend and pianist Charlie Palmieri. At age 11, he made his classical debut at Carnegie Hall, a venue as far from the Bronx as he could imagine. He began his professional career as a pianist in the early '50s with Eddie Forrester's Orchestra. In 1955 he joined Johnny Segui's band. He spent a year with the Tito Rodriguez Orchestra before forming his own band, the legendary "Conjunto La Perfecta," in 1961.

La Perfecta featured a trombone section (led by the late Barry Rogers) in place of trumpets, something that had been rarely done in Latin music, and which demonstrated the early stages of Palmieri's unconventional means of orchestration. They were known as "the band with the crazy roaring elephants" for the configuration of two trombones, flute, percussion, bass and vocalist. With an infectious and soaring sound, Palmieri's band soon joined the ranks of Machito, Tito Rodriguez, and the other major Latin orchestras of the day.

Today, Palmieri remains a powerhouse of brilliance and sound that has stirred audiences for 50 years, captivating and elevating the senses while taking listeners down paths of intensity to a place where there are no musical boundaries. This concert at the Rialto will celebrate his amazing 50-year career, and Mr. Palmieri's 70th birthday!

This year marks the Rialto's ten year anniversary season, where the theme is, "Every Show's a Celebration!" The Rialto Center's 2006-07 season continues with the **Gala Holiday Concert** December 2 & 3, tap dance phenomenon **Savion Glover** February 2 & 3, and **Les Ballets Africains**, the National Song and Dance Company of Guinea on February 17.



EDDIE PALMIERI

Latin Jazz Legend

Saturday, November 18, 2006, 8:00PM

Eddie Palmieri – one of the world's foremost and celebrated Latin pianists – will be celebrating his 70th birthday with the Rialto. The Harlem-born and eight-time Grammy award winner's ability to fuse the rhythms of his Puerto Rican heritage with the jazz influences of Thelonious Monk and McCoy Turner brought him instant success in the 1950s and 60s. Palmieri embodies the jazz spirit of improvisation, and has continued to innovate over the years, creating classic Tico albums and later mixing salsa with R&B, pop, rock and Spanish vocals.

Venue: Rialto Center for the Arts

Cost: \$36/\$46/\$62

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