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Arturo SANDOVAL

# ***The Sound of Freedom* Nonet Concert**

2026.9.19 Sat. 19:00

Weiwuying Opera House

Duration is 90 minutes without intermission.

Suitable for age 7+.



National Kaohsiung  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEI WUYING 衛武營

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心  
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

## **Program Notes**

Arturo SANDOVAL, born in Cuba in 1949, is one of the most outstanding jazz trumpet masters of our time. His musical training spans both classical and jazz disciplines. Early in his career, he was appreciated and mentored by jazz master Dizzy GILLESPIE, which propelled him onto the international stage.

SANDOVAL is not only a trumpet player, but also a pianist, percussionist, singer, music arranger, and educator. His musical style blends Cuban Latin rhythms with jazz bebop grammar, displaying exceptional skills while maintaining strong narrative tension and emotional depth. During his illustrious career, he received 10 Grammy Awards, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Kennedy Center Honors for lifetime achievement.

## In-Depth Intro

### Beyond technique lies a state of ongoing musicality.

Excerpt from GQ Taiwan

SANDOVAL's achievements have never been merely a display of technical prowess. With 19 Grammy nominations and 10 wins to his name—alongside the Presidential Medal of Freedom and 2024 Kennedy Center Honoree—SANDOVAL's enduring impact on culture and the arts has been well recognized. Yet, even more noteworthy than these well-documented accomplishments is the fact that he remains active on stage today.

*"I still practice every day, and I love music more every day." — Arturo SANDOVAL.*

Now over the age of 77, SANDOVAL continues to practice tirelessly every day, maintaining astonishing stability and control in his music playing. Whether executing precise high-register notes, navigating rapid passages, or sustaining long performances, he remains completely at ease, a testament to his wealth of experience. Underpinning this mastery—beyond his superb technical command—is a lifelong passion for and discipline regarding jazz. Consequently, what we hear in his music is not merely technical maturity, but also a creative spirit that remains vibrant and evolving. Every time he steps onto the stage, it fuels his connection with audiences worldwide through jazz; for SANDOVAL, music is never a finished product, but an ongoing, unfolding process.

Presented at Weiwuying, *Sound of Freedom* features a nonet led by SANDOVAL, who takes the stage alongside eight other musicians. SANDOVAL's trumpet serves as both the central axis and the guiding force, while the other musicians layer their responses, creating a nuanced interplay between improvisation and arrangement. The performance strikes a balance between freedom and control, retaining the open nature of jazz improvisation while exhibiting the precision and structural integrity characteristic of chamber music.

This concert was more than just a live performance; it was a moment to draw close to the very essence of jazz. Time expands beyond a linear flow; it was stretched, extended, and even reimagined. SANDOVAL once described music as an endless journey, and the reason each performance captivates is because it never repeats itself—there are always new possibilities waiting to be discovered. When the trumpet sounded, it conveyed not only personal life experiences but also an entire era's vision of freedom.

*"Jazz is synonymous with freedom. And, for me, I strongly believe that freedom is the most important word in any dictionary, in any language in the world, because no freedom, no life."*  
—Arturo SANDOVAL.

As the audience leaves the venue after the performance, perhaps they take away more than just melodies—carrying with them joy, inspiration, and a deeper sense of human connection.

## Performer

### Trumpet | Arturo SANDOVAL

- 2024 Kennedy Center Honoree
- Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient (President OBAMA)
- 10-time Grammy Award winner
- Grammy's Lifetime Achievement Award
- Emmy Award recipient (Best Composer)
- 6-time Billboard Award winner
- Honorary Doctorate recipient in Fine Arts University of Notre-Dame



A protégé of the legendary Dizzy GILLESPIE, Arturo SANDOVAL was born in Artemisa, Cuba on November 6, 1949—just two years after GILLESPIE first introduced Latin influences into American jazz. From humble beginnings, SANDOVAL began studying classical trumpet at twelve, but it wasn't long before the fire of jazz took hold. Today, he stands as one of the most brilliant and multifaceted musicians of our time: a virtuoso of trumpet and flugelhorn, a masterful pianist, timbalero, composer, and a fearless innovator whose artistry has captivated millions around the globe.

SANDOVAL is renowned as one of the most dynamic performers alive. He has lit up the stage at the Oscars, the Grammy Awards, and the Billboard Awards, dazzling audiences with both breathtaking technique and sheer joy. The accolades match the legend: 10 Grammy Awards (19 nominations), 6 Billboard Awards, and an Emmy Award for composing the acclaimed underscore to HBO's *For Love or Country* starring Andy GARCIA.

Widely recognized as one of the greatest trumpet players in history, SANDOVAL's astonishing range, agility, and control allow him to execute the most intricate passages with power and emotion. His unique gift lies in his ability to seamlessly blend jazz, classical, and Latin traditions, creating a voice that is unmistakably his own. Beyond performance, he is a prolific composer, arranger, and educator, inspiring generations of musicians with his passion and dedication.

Artist Official Website: [www.arturosandoval.com](http://www.arturosandoval.com)

## Artistic and Production Team

Trumpet | Arturo SANDOVAL, Keith FIALA

Guitar | William BRAHM

Bass | Maximilian GERL

Drums | Daniel FELDMAN

Percussion | Otto SELIS

Piano | Omar VALENZUELA

Tenor Saxophone | Tedd BAKER

Baritone Saxophone | Larry BUSTAMANTE

## Production Team of Weiwuying

Program Coordinator | Fan YANG

Production Coordinator | CHEN Peng-chen

Technical Coordinator | CHUANG Ching

Stage & Rigging Staff | YEN Yu-sheng, HUANG Ying-sheng

Lighting Designer & Staff | CHEN Ping-hung

Lighting Staff | CHENG Te-pin

Audio & Video Staff | HE Hou-te, CHUNG Te-yen

Marketing Coordinator | HUANG Chao-hsueh

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