

LILA DOWNS BIOGRAPHY/PROGRAM NOTES

Iconic Grammy and Latin Grammy Award winning singer **Lila Downs** is one of the world's most singular and powerful voices, whose compelling stage presence and poignant storytelling transcend all language barriers. Raised in Minnesota and Oaxaca, this global superstar's exquisite artistry bridges traditions from across the Americas, with influences ranging from the folk and ranchera music of Mexico and South America to North American folk, jazz, blues, and hip-hop. As a passionate human-rights activist, Lila's lyrics often highlight issues relating to social justice, sharing stories that too often go untold.

Lila's current album, *Salón, Lágrimas y Deseo*, is an anthem for female empowerment and earned her a fifth Latin Grammy. The initial single, "Peligrosa," includes lyrics that invite all "dangerous" women to join her – women who are intelligent, independent, who know how to get things done, make decisions, fight, and love. *Salón, Lágrimas y Deseo*, released in May 2017, features a blend of genres from blues to cumbia, danzón, banda, and Cuban son, with ballads that perfectly suit Lila's unmistakable, contralto voice.

Lila has graced the stages of many of the world's most prestigious festivals and venues including Jazz at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Hollywood Bowl. She has been invited to sing at the White House, and performed on the Academy Awards and Latin Grammy Awards telecasts. Her music has also been included in several feature films such as *The Counselor, Tortilla Soup, Real Women Have Curves, The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada, Carlos Saura's Fados, Mariachi Gringo, and Hecho en Mexico.*