

## **Chutzpah's Opening Night Vancouver Premiere of the Idan Raichel Project**

**Vancouver BC** – Kicking off the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chutzpah! Festival is **The Idan Raichel Project on Opening Night at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC**. The group burst onto Israel's music scene in 2002, changing the face of Israeli popular music and offering a message of love and tolerance. The blend of African, Latin American, Caribbean and Middle Eastern sounds, coupled with a spectacular live show by a full band, has enchanted audiences worldwide.

Six years ago, when Israeli keyboardist and composer Idan Raichel was working in a home studio in his parent's basement in a small city near Tel Aviv, fusing Israeli pop music with Middle Eastern, African, Indian and other global sounds, he never anticipated the impact his unique approach would soon have. His "experiment" resulted in one of the biggest-selling records in Israeli history and propelled him to become a major figure in the international global music scene. On the heels of that explosive rise in popularity, record-breaking sales in Israel and sold-out performances across the globe to rapturous crowds in some of the world's most prestigious venues, he returns to lead The Idan Raichel Project for their second international album, *Within My Walls*.

Much of *Within My Walls* was recorded over the past few years while Idan was on tour, during recording sessions in hotel rooms, backstage dressing areas, private homes and other impromptu settings. His poetic lyrics reflect these travels and contemplations; sung in Hebrew, Moroccan Arabic, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole and Swahili, the songs address the struggle for personal fulfillment and the true meaning of love in a conflicted and complex world. The result is a deeply moving recording, overflowing with rich melodies, engaging poetry, stunning vocal performances and intricate arrangements.

The Idan Raichel Project has performed at the Sydney Opera House, the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles, New York's Central Park SummerStage, as well as shows in India, Hong Kong, Mexico City, Moscow and Singapore.

"Amid their dense, entrancing, eclectic mix of percussion, strings, keyboards and electronics, the Project's several albums have featured songs in Hebrew, Arabic, Hindi and English. But any perceived language barrier hasn't been a problem. In fact, the biggest surprise was how this organic musical experiment wound up becoming a hit, nudging out Beyonce on the pop charts as their first two albums hit triple-platinum status..." *The Edmonton Journal, Aug 2009*

"The result is a melodic chorus of catchy tunes and lively beats, fused into an original and exotic sound..." *The Times, London 2008*

"The dreadlocked frontman ...ceded the glory of the spotlight to his virtuosic band, which included three singers, two percussionists, a clarinet and flute player and an electric oud player. The rapturous response from the audience ... was unlike anything witnessed in recent memory." *New York Times, 2009*

*Presented by Chutzpah! and the Chan Centre*

**When: March 4 at 8pm**

**Where: Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC**

Visit the Festival's website at [www.chutzpahfestival.com](http://www.chutzpahfestival.com) for complete information. Tickets can be purchased by phone at the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145), online at [www.ticketstonight.ca](http://www.ticketstonight.ca) and the Chutzpah! Festival website [www.chutzpahfestival.com](http://www.chutzpahfestival.com) or in person at the JCCGV (950 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Ave). Online Tickets for The Idan Raichel Project can be purchased only through Ticketmaster (604.280.3311) [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) as well as by phone or in person through the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145)

- end -

Media inquiries:

Jodi Smith, JLS Entertainment

T: 604.736.4939 E: [jlsmgmt@lightspeed.ca](mailto:jlsmgmt@lightspeed.ca)