



FROM BEAT BOX TO CLASSICAL, CHUTZPAH! HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Vancouver BC – “Since music is the key to every good party, I’m so glad to have such an amazing range of musicians on board to help us celebrate Chutzpah’s 10th anniversary.” stated Artistic Managing Director Mary-Louise Albert. “We are pulling out all the stops this year. Every group performing in 2010 is big – in sound, number of musicians and energy. Performers hail from across Canada and around the world including France, New York, and the Middle East. Whether your taste runs to classical, electronica or rollicking sounds in between, these shows are guaranteed to get your spirits and feet moving!”

THE IDAN RAICHEL PROJECT

Kicking off the festival is **The Idan Raichel Project, our Opening Night Gala 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.

Raichel’s above “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*.

“The dreadlocked frontman [Raichel]...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. Raichel contributed mostly background harmonies and many dazzling electric keyboard flourishes. The rapturous response from the audience ... was unlike anything witnessed in recent memory. “World music” cross-cultural mixing pots can often come off bland and boring, crushed under the weight of their good intentions and liberal politics. Raichel’s new equation succeeds because it prioritizes creative new music, with the message of peace flowing from the sound.” *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

BALKAN BEAT BOX

Chutzpah! continues to expand its horizons and will be bringing the sounds of the **Balkan Beat Box** to one of Granville Streets newest dance clubs – The Venue. Returning to Chutzpah! after a tremendously popular show during the 2008 Festival at the Chan Centre, Israel's ultimate party band will weave the exotic sounds of the Middle East with urban electronic grooves and hip-hop beats at their high energy concert. Their semi-circus performances, often lasting 2-3 hours, involve multidisciplinary musicians from around the world who keep the audience guessing where the next surprise will appear from. Fusing electronica and hip-hop with wailing horns and the fast and furious folk beats found in gypsy and Balkan music, the group breaks down political barriers with joyful enthusiasm.

Balkan Beat Box's Israeli founding members Tamir Muskat and Ori Kaplan have been active for over a decade in NYC's premier underground bands like Firewater and Gogol Bordello. Collaborating with Israeli MC-vocalist and percussionist Tomer Yosef, the BBB show came to life in 2004. Audiences haven't stopped dancing ever since.

"BBB blends Balkan horns and vocals, Middle Eastern rhythms, turntables, big fat power chords and other musical flotsam into an exotic, compelling Balkan rave. Don't even try to resist." *World Music Magazine*

Presented by Chutzpah! and the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad

When: March 18 at 8pm

Where: The Venue, 881 Granville St

SAGAPOOL

Winners of Instrumental Group of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards, Montreal's **Sagapool** will entertain audiences with its own blend of joyful and very cinematographic music. Guitar, double bass, accordion, percussions, banjo, glockenspiel, Rhodes, violin, clarinet and piano all shine in the hands of these multi-talented instrumentalists. The group defies simple categorization, with its contagious joie de vivre and its vibrant music, Sagapool has created an original and dazzling repertoire that reflects the colourful influences of Montreal's cultural mosaic.

Sagapool – previously known as Manouche – recently celebrated its ninth year with the release of its third album, *Épisode Trois*. With *Épisode Trois*, Sagapool lets its music travel without borders and preserves the free spirit and exuberance of its first loves – gypsy music, gypsy swing and klezmer, while adding ska, latin and folk rhythms.

Sagapool's new album was enthusiastically received by the public and critics alike. Shortly after its release, Montreal newspaper *Ici* named it Album of the Week. It also placed #1 on CIBL World chart for 7 consecutive weeks, #6 on IEarshot Jazz chart and reached the Top 10 list of Montreal CD sales. In 2006, the album *St-Urbain Café* was nominated at ADISQ (Quebec Junos) for best instrumental album. That same year, the group won the Roseq-Radarts award given by music promoters of Quebec.

"The sparkling and festive music of Sagapool. Contagious joie-de-vivre." *Journal de Québec*

"Six incredible musicians were on the stage... in front of a public they took about two minutes to conquer. Sagapool enchanted the place with its rich melodies." *La frontière*

When: March 13 at 8pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre at the JCCGV

ARC Ensemble (Artists of the Royal Conservatory)

ARC has become one of Canada's leading cultural exports, raising international awareness of the Glenn Gould School's superb faculty and Canada's rich musical life. The ensemble's concerts are meticulously researched and assembled with rich supporting materials and are often augmented with lectures on the life and context of the composers. The ensemble plays a leading role in unearthing repertoire that has been ignored due to political changes or shifts in musical fashion - in particularly works that were lost because of the upheavals of the Second World War.

Presented by Chutzpah! and the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad with Congregation Beth Israel, *Music in Exile*, will explore the extraordinary music of Jewish composers forced to flee the Third Reich after the Nazis cracked down on their "degenerate" music. These once-forgotten works will be given their due in two moving music concerts by the ARC Ensemble. The first concert on March 19 is entitled *Continental Britons* and will feature the works of the composers Robert Kahn (voice and piano trio), Mátyás Seiber (clarinet and string quartet), and Franz Reizenstein (piano quintet). The concert on March 20 entitled *Exiled to the New World* will feature the World Premiere of a quintet for clarinet and strings by Hans Weisse, the Canadian premiere of a Felix Mendelssohn violin sonata as well as the works of Erich Wolfgang Korngold (piano trio), Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco (baritone and guitar) and Hanns Eisler (baritone and guitar).

Music in Exile has been presented to huge critical success in New York, London, Budapest, and Toronto, and has led to concerts at the Kennedy Center in Washington and performances in Rome, Sweden and Poland. ARC's two CDs, *On the Threshold of Hope* and *Right Through the Bone*, have been nominated for Grammy Awards in the category of Best Chamber Music Recording.

"The ARC musicians performed both scores with passion, polish and vitality." *New York Times*

"Through their remarkable dedication to the music of these composers, along with the scholarship, discussion and historical context provided by this [Music in Exile] series, the stories of these composers are brilliantly illuminated. With their committed, outstanding performances, in North America and all over the world, this organization gives active meaning to the concept of tikkun olam, repairing the world; work that can never be fully completed." *James Conlon, Honorary Chairman, ARC Ensemble*

Principal Artists

Peter Barrett (Baritone)
Benjamin Bowman (Violin)
Steven Dann (Viola)
Bryan Epperson (Cello),
David Louie (Piano)
Erika Raum (Violin)
Joaquin Valdepeñas (Clarinet)
Dianne Werner (Piano)
Simon Wynberg (Artistic Director/Guitar)

**When: March 19 at 2pm
March 20 at 9pm**

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre

A Chutzpah! presentation with the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and Congregation Beth Israel

LES YEUX NOIRS

To wrap up the festival and celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Chutzpah! Festival in style, **Les Yeux Noirs** will be headlining the Closing Night Party at The Venue dance club on Granville Street.

Les Yeux Noirs are fronted by two violin-wielding brothers Eric and Olivier Slabiak. Considered and complex yet wild and occasionally raucous, Les Yeux Noirs certainly give notions of musical purity a good bruising. Equal parts gypsy and klezmer (with plenty of jazzy flourishes to boot), this *Chutzpah!/Caravan World Rhythms presentation* will take you on an exhilarating musical journey from Hungary to Armenia.

Founded by the two classical music conservatory-trained brothers in France, the band released their first album in 1992 and this year released a 'best of' two-CD compilation *Opre Scena* comprised of their five studio albums.

Les Yeux Noirs live shows are an exhilarating, winding journey, most often conducted at a pedal-to-the-metal, breakneck speed – perfect music to celebrate Chutzpah!'s 10th anniversary milestone.

"The auditorium was filled for a reason... [Les Yeux Noirs] were voted by CityMusic's audiences as the favorite band ever to play at its World Music Series. Alternating between incredibly fast and rhythmic instrumentals and mournful traditional and original songs, Les Yeux Noirs had many people clapping and dancing in the aisles over a nearly two-hour concert." *Columbus Dispatch*

When: April 8 at 8pm

Where: The Venue, 881 Granville St

Presented by Chutzpah! and Caravan World Rhythms

Visit the Festival's website at 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 and the Chutzpah! Festival website www.chutzpahfestival.com or in person at the JCCGV (950 W. 41st Ave). Online Tickets for The Idan Raichel Project can be purchased only through Ticketmaster (604.280.3311) www.ticketmaster.ca as well as by phone or in person through the Chutzpah! Festival Box Office (604-257-5145)

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