



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Esplanade's *Mosaic Music Festival* is back!

Artist-In-Residence programme enlarged to deepen engagement with local and regional talents

SINGAPORE, February 16, 2009 – Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay presents its fifth edition of *Mosaic Music Festival 2009*, one of the biggest music festivals in the region. The 10-day festival returns with its wide and eclectic range of music presentations from jazz and world to funk, electronica, folk, indie, R&B and hip-hop. Running from 13 to 22 March, this multi-genre music festival will have something for everyone.

Now in its fifth edition, the festival launches with jazz and funk heavyweight George Duke, American folk-rock duo Indigo Girls and the R&B crooner with the smooth and silky vocals - Brian McKnight. In addition to the stellar line-up, our Artist-In-Residence programme has grown even larger to include eight musicians over the 10-day festival.

Amy Ho, Producer, The Esplanade Co Ltd commented: "*Mosaic* is not just about entertaining our audiences but it is also a platform to educate and inspire. This year, our Artist-In-Residence programme has expanded with the Mike Stern Band, Dave Weckl and The Yellowjackets taking part. We hope that through the workshops, masterclasses and jam sessions, local, regional and international artists can deepen their engagement with each other and more ideas can flow across borders. Through the wide range of sounds presented at the festival we also hope to excite our audiences and widen their exposure to different genres of music. "

Last year saw the beginning of the first Artist-In-Residence programme at *Mosaic* with Grammy nominated jazz vocalist Kurt Elling. This year formidable jazz quartet The Yellowjackets and the Mike Stern Band featuring Dave Weckl will take part in the programme, bringing a total of six workshops and ten masterclasses to the line-up, an increase from last year's three workshops and one masterclass. The Yellowjackets,

Dave Weckl and the Mike Stern Band will also play host to the *ALL STAR JAM* at the Nokia Music Station (Outdoor Theatre) where local musicians will jam with international artists. There will also be more collaborations in the festival, encouraging further interaction between *Mosaic* artists. In *Brazilian Darlings*, a double bill will be presented by acclaimed pianist Eliane Elias and Grammy award winner Ivan Lins. The Mike Stern Band will play with Dave Weckl in the Heineken Music Club and homegrown group 53A comprising singer-songwriter Sara Wei and guitarist Alvin Khoo will open for celebrated folk-rock duo - the Indigo Girls.

To nurture budding artists, *Bright Young Things*, a segment introduced in 2007 as part of *Mosaic's* Living Room programme, which has to date presented young musicians such as singer Nathan Hartono from Singapore and pianist Zefanya Hartaniputra from Indonesia, will move beyond just presenting this year. Selected artists under the programme, who may not necessarily be performing at the festival, will be invited to come and experience the festival, and attend a masterclass. They will also have the opportunity to interact and perform with the festival artists during the *ALL STAR JAM* sessions at the Nokia Music Station (Esplanade Outdoor Theatre).

Festival highlights

Our Concert Hall headline acts kick off with one of the original funkmeisters, consummate musician, bandleader, vocalist, songwriter, arranger and producer, keyboardist **George Duke**. A producer since the 1980s, he has crafted scores of fine recordings, many of them for Grammy award-winning artists, representing almost every corner of the contemporary American music landscape. Other stellar artists include American soul and R&B man **Brian McKnight** who has sold over 20 million records worldwide, New York based quartet quirky electro-rock band **Battles**, the **Brad Mehldau Trio** with its adventurous yet darkly intense jazz melodies, **The Cinematic Orchestra** with their brand of electro-infused acid jazz, a cappella group **Naturally 7** with their signature "vocal play" - voices as instruments - and explosive Japanese jazz band **SOIL & "PIMP" SESSIONS**, who after performing a sold-out set at the festival's Heineken Music Club last year, are back to knock the socks off audiences in the *11th Hour* series at the Concert Hall.

Now into its third year, the Heineken Music Club (Esplanade Theatre Studio) returns with its popular club sets and a new show. The show - *Club M.I.A.*, short for 'Made in Asia', will be a presentation platform for some of the established independent talents in the region. Performing in its first ever line-up are three Asian indie bands. Playing an infectious party mix of electro-pop melodies is **15th Scenery** from Thailand, next up are dance-punk tunes from pinoy band **Pedicab** and finally enjoy 80s electro and New Wave influenced disco-punk-rock by **New Pants**, from China. Adding to the venue's club vibe is **Psapp** who will delight audiences by creating pop song melodies with their own invented instruments while **of Montreal** will ramp up the party mood with their shape-shifting, psychedelic disco-funk and slinky electro groove. Filling the club with her smooth and beguiling vocals in a solo concert is **SKYE**, also popularly known as the former front-woman of the British trip-hop-soul group Morcheeba.

At the Mosaic Studio (Esplanade Recital Studio) audiences will enjoy a diverse range of sounds in an intimate setting. Here strong personality-driven artists, delivering their own unique brand of music, will enchant audiences. **GAIA** brings together the remarkable talents of harmonica wunderkind **Grégoire Maret**, pianist/keyboardist **Federico Gonzalez Peña**, and master drummer **Gene Lake** - in an organic, searing, liquid brew of nu jazz, jam, blues, bop and funk. Sultry Chilean singer-songwriter **Claudia Acuña** will mesmerise as she performs English and Spanish songs from her new album *En Este Momento*. Australian singer-songwriter Ohad Rein aka **Old Man River** will take listeners on an evening of musical tales using the guitar, sitar, drums and bass, through the genres of funk, blues and 60s-style folk, while kora master **Seckou Keita SKQ's** Afro-Mandika soul-jazz-classical fusion music will mellow the evening down for audiences. Musician and sound artist **Shuta Hasunuma** and his band **Team POP OOGA** from Japan will meld band instrumentation, field recordings (of birdsong and street chatter), vocals and filtered electronics with beautiful melodies. **Mélanie Pain**, who is one of the main voices of New Wave French group Nouvelle Vague, will delight with folk-pop pieces in English and French, and the reigning kings of metal - **Wolfgang** from the Philippines - bring a refreshing acoustical spin to round up the eclectic mix.

Free Programmes

To continue lifting the spirits of our audience in these difficult times, the number of free performances at the festival will increase with over 100 performances taking place at the

Nokia Music Station (Esplanade Outdoor Theatre) and Häagen-Dazs Living Room (Esplanade Concourse) as compared to about 80 last year. Some of these acts include local musicians **Norman Seck, Ngak & Clement, The Goodfellas, TypeWriter** and **Jon Chan**. Regional acts include **GruvAvenue** and **Mia Palencia** from Malaysia, **Andre Harihandoyo** and **Sonic People** from Indonesia, **THE CONDORS Band Project** from Japan, **MC Hotdog** from Taiwan and the young talented saxophonist **Jake Barden** from Australia. International acts such as **Almost Alive** and **Ruby Tigers** complete the exciting mix.

Continuing to inspire local audiences and engage budding artists, the *In the House FM* segment will carry on to allow music fans to get up close and personal with their favourite *Mosaic* artists through a series of informal, intimate chat sessions at the library@esplanade. Hosting the segment are home-grown singer-songwriters **Jack & Rai**, who will draw audiences and artists together with their engaging banter.

Visual Arts

Visitors to the centre during the festival will also be treated to visual arts displays. *Intrinsic* captures how five artists express their views of the world on physical objects such as photographs, paintings, sculptures and installations. This will be on display at Jendela (Visual Arts Space by Cristal Caritas Trust). *Warm Machine* by Singaporean artist **Chiew Sien Kuan** illustrates his attempts to construct, label and depict multiple viewpoints through the sculpture of a car at Esplanade's Concourse. *It Is Like This* features drawings and oil portraits by local artists **Chong Yan Hong, Clement Liang** and **Maisor Sidek** at the Esplanade Tunnel. Over at the Esplanade Community Wall, **Soh Peiling's** drawings *Moronic Beauty of Youth* will be exhibited.

Mosaic Music Festival 2009 would not be possible without the generous support of Esplanade Partners **Visa Worldwide** and **Nokia Pte Ltd**, Supporting Sponsors **Häagen-Dazs, Harry's** and **Pioneer Electronics Asiacentre Pte Ltd**. It is also supported by **Heineken Music**, the venue naming sponsor for the Heineken Music Club.

Tickets for *Mosaic Music Festival 2009* are available from Esplanade's Box Office at Mezzanine level (Tel: +65 6828 8377), the SISTIC Hotline (Tel: +65 6348 5555), the festival's website at www.mosaicmusicfestival.com and all SISTIC outlets.

About Esplanade – Theatres On The Bay

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is one of the world's busiest arts centres, officially opened on 12 October 2002. This architectural icon with its distinctive twin shells is sited within Singapore's civic district, just by Marina Bay at the mouth of the Singapore River.

Esplanade aims to be a performing arts centre for everyone, and its programmes cater to its diverse audiences. Its programme line-up spans all genres to encompass music, dance, theatre and visual arts, with a special focus on Asian culture.

Esplanade houses world-class performance spaces, supported by a comprehensive range of professional support facilities and services. Its two main venues are the 1,600-seat Concert Hall, with acoustics by the late Russell Johnson of ARTEC Consultants, and the 2,000-seat theatre, an adaptation of traditional European opera houses in horseshoe form.

In the past year, Esplanade welcomed over eight million visitors and hosted over 2,400 performances.

~ End ~

Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.

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ANNEX

**Esplanade Presents
Mosaic Music Festival
13 – 22 Mar 09**

Esplanade Concert Hall

13 Mar (Fri)

Opening Concert: George Duke
USA

“As one of the original funk meisters, George has been tantalizing the groove fantastic for more than forty years... As consistent as he has been over the years, George’s mainstay has always been his inventiveness and his ability to forge groundbreaking forays into the unknown realm of originality.” - Jazzreview.com

With a massive repertoire that spans the history of jazz-funk, a record of working with just about everybody in the contemporary American jazz/funk/R&B music industry from Frank Zappa to Stanley Clarke to Dizzy Gillespie to Take 6, and a reputation so good that Anita Baker once declared that she would not do a project without him, George Duke, consummate musician, bandleader, vocalist, songwriter, arranger and producer, is THE go-to man in the jazz/funk/R&B scene.

He is known for his gift of writing and playing “some of the most mesmerizing grooves ever” (Pop Matters). And unlike many virtuosos prone to musical excess, George - through four decades of delving into straight-ahead jazz, exploratory jazz fusion, electric, comic and supersonic jazz-funk-rock, deep funk jams, avant-garde fusion, Brazilian jazz and soul-jazz – has consistently demonstrated a dexterity, tastefulness, charisma and energy that is a joy to experience.

George’s imprint on jazz and pop music over the past 40 years is almost impossible to calculate. From forming a band with Al Jarreau and playing with Sonny Rollins and Dexter Gordon after college, he has helped expand jazz and fusion with exploratory collaborations with artists as diverse as Jean Luc-Ponty, Frank Zappa, “Cannonball” Adderley, Nancy Wilson, Dizzy Gillespie, Billy Cobham and Stanley Clarke, as well as with his own acclaimed solo and band recordings and performances in jazz, fusion, R&B, funk, Brazilian jazz and other genres, and the 2000 launch of his record label BPM (Big Piano Music).

Also a hugely successful producer and composer since the 80s, the two-time Keyboard magazine “R&B Keyboardist of the Year” has crafted scores of fine recordings – many of them Grammy winners – for artists such as Raoul de Souza, Dee Dee Bridgewater, A Taste of Honey, Jeffrey Osborne, Deniece Williams, Melissa Manchester, Al Jarreau, Smokey Robinson, The Pointer Sisters, Take 6, Gladys Knight and Anita Baker and for film and TV shows, as well as symphonic concert performances. George has even been musical director for 1988’s Nelson Mandela tribute concert at London’s Wembley Stadium and NBC’s 1989 music programme, Sunday Night.

In this concert, George and his exceptional five-piece band perform music from his latest album, *Dukey Treats*, a collection of funky gems that pay homage to old-school funk

sensibilities with a tongue-in-cheek attitude, fresh sound and issues relevant to the global culture of the 21st century. Come let the master take us back to a time when funk was bold, tight, fresh and fun. Everybody say “We want the real groove, let me see your feet move, it’s your deal! Funkin’ for the real thrill”!

Esplanade Concert Hall
7.30pm (90mins, no intermission)

\$58*, \$88**, \$118, \$148

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40* and \$60**

14 Mar (Sat)

Brazilian Darlings: A Double Bill by Eliane Elias & Ivan Lins

Brazil

“Eliane is a highly skilled and fluid jazz pianist - her lushly seductive vocal performances were followed by lengthy, impressively agile improvisations.” – *New York Newsday*

“Arguably the best Brazilian song writer since Antonio Carlos Jobim...Lins’ performance was a masterful display of musicality, entertainment, and communication.” - *LA Times*

From samba to bossa nova, the alluring music of Brazil - with deep-rooted origins in African, European and Amerindian traditions - covers a wide array of unique styles, many of which have captured hearts, minds, radios, TV screens and dancefloors across the world. Tonight, celebrate the music of Brazil, with two of its brightest stars!

Kicking off the concert is Brazilian-born and New York-based pianist/vocalist/composer/bandleader **Eliane Elias** who has released 18 acclaimed solo albums, topped charts, won awards and sent audiences into raptures with her vocal and piano prowess. Performing solo, she compels with emotional nuance and assurance. Playing with her trio, she establishes fantastic group dynamics and cohesion. But always, Eliane performs with expressiveness and grace, delivering her strong compositions and reinterpretations with diverse stylistic elements from bebop, tropicalia, western classical music, straight-ahead jazz and electronica, while retaining her Brazilian core.

Hear Eliane pay tribute to the music of her homeland and childhood with music from her quartet, playing music from her latest album - *Bossa Nova Stories*, a collection of freshly reworked bossa nova tunes and other classics with an enticing twist!

Then welcome legendary composer/pianist/vocalist and multiple Grammy award-winner **Ivan Lins**. From learning the piano by ear as a gifted 18-year-old, Ivan grew to become one of Brazil’s most recorded and best-known composers overseas, his career spanning 35 years, many successful collaborations (the most enduring being his longtime partnership with fellow songwriter Vitor Martins) and 27 records, with over 350 songs recorded in Brazil and hundreds more around the world. Through the decades, Ivan’s ever-growing legacy of Brazilian popular music coloured with styles from pop to jazz to R&B has been cherished by generations and recorded and performed by prominent international artists such as Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Manhattan Transfer,

George Benson, Barbra Streisand, Sting, Sérgio Mendes, Take 6 and Quincy Jones among many others.

Fresh from the vivid, sultry heat of Eliane Elias' performance, revel in the hypnotic beauty of Ivan Lin's music. You will fall in love.

Esplanade Concert Hall
7.30pm (140mins including 20min intermission)

\$58*, \$88**, \$118

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40* and \$60**

15 Mar (Sun)
Brad Mehldau Trio
USA

"Inside the music of Brad Mehldau is a conflict among rock, jazz and classical personalities. Ultimately, though, the pianist has figured a way to integrate all three pretty seamlessly."
– *The Philadelphia Enquirer*

Whether evoking pensive repose, intense yearning or rhapsodic ecstasy, the music of the Brad Mehldau Trio draws the listener into an emotional maelstrom. At once cool and passionate, adventurous yet succinct, the trio's music ripples forth with something like controlled chaos – a result of the dynamics of band leader/pianist/composer Brad Mehldau's twin leanings to both improvisation and formalism. You never really know what to expect.

Juxtaposing such extremes and revealing threads of diverse influences that include Chopin, Scriabin, Monk, Miles, Gershwin and Radiohead, the trio – renowned musicians, Brad, bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jeff Ballard – has received standing ovations wherever it has performed.

Brad has performed solo and in a trio internationally since the mid 90s, recorded acclaimed albums, received awards, had his music appear in Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* and Wim Wender's *Million Dollar Hotel*, worked with many jazz greats from Pat Metheny to Peter Bernstein and Kurt Rosenwinkel, and curates Wigmore Hall's annual jazz series. Brad has also composed, performed and recorded outside the jazz idiom for Willie Nelson's *Teatro* and Joe Henry's *Scar*, French film *Ma Femme Est Une Actrice*, two Carnegie Hall-commissioned compositions performed and recorded with soprano Renee Fleming, and a piano concerto with Orchestre National d'Ile-de-France.

The trio's performances – comprising originals, reinterpretations and a reworked rock song - are typically low on banter, the three preferring to let their music speak for themselves. But oh, how eloquent they are...

Esplanade Concert Hall
6pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$58*, \$78**

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40*, \$60**

15 Mar (Sun)

Artist-In-Residence

The Yellowjackets with Mike Stern

USA

“Stern and the Yellowjackets are a perfectly logical combination -- especially in light of the hell-bent-for-jazz direction the Yellowjackets have favored since 1991's *Greenhouse*.” – *All Music Guide*

Sparks flew when formidable jazz quartet the Yellowjackets and eclectic guitar virtuoso/composer Mike Stern teamed up on the album *Lifecycle* last year. Released in mid 2008, it generated a storm of excitement and praise for it was the first Yellowjackets album in 15 years to feature a guitarist. The result – mixing jazz with funky grooves, gospel, blues and more elements - was a fiery energy and collaborative dynamic that was altogether special.

Mike and the Jackets performed together at 2007's *Montreal Jazz Festival* and enjoyed such chemistry and success that they got together to create an album. In *Lifecycle*, seven of the 10 tracks are quintet pieces featuring Mike and the Jackets, while the remaining three are quartet pieces that showcase the individual and collective talents of the current Jackets lineup - keyboardist Russell Ferrante, saxophonist Bob Mintzer, bassist Jimmy Haslip and drummer Marcus Baylor.

For 27 years, the Yellowjackets have pushed the boundaries of improvisational jazz, explored a diverse cross-section of sound and rhythm across jazz, rock, funk, blues, gospel, electronics and post-bop, won two Grammy awards and 13 Grammy nominations, and led jazz's evolution. Four-time Grammy nominee Mike Stern has wowed critics and jazz lovers, establishing himself as one of the premier jazz and jazz-fusion guitarists and composers of his generation with acclaimed live performances, collaborations with greats like Miles Davis, David Sanborn and Bob Berg, and 13 innovative solo albums.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime concert by two jazz institutions.

Esplanade Concert Hall

9.30pm (90mins, no intermission)

\$58*, \$88**, \$118

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40*, \$60**

16 Mar (Mon)

Indigo Girls

USA

“The Indigo Girls personify what happens when two distinct sensibilities, voices, and worldviews come together to create something transcendently its own.” – *Rolling Stone*

In the 1980s, two girls from Atlanta got together and wowed industry professionals and audiences alike with their gutsy brand of acoustic guitar-based folk-rock, singing in strong vocal harmony about heartbreak, environmental pollution, prejudice and social injustice.

Calling themselves the Indigo Girls, the two - 20 years, 15 albums and numerous chart-toppers later - have politely declined the opportunity to mellow with age. Devoted environmental and social-justice activists and lifelong music-industry mavericks, the Girls – the harder-rocking Amy Ray and love song balladeer Emily Saliers - have spent their entire career pushing boundaries on a variety of fronts and are not about to stop now.

Despite Our Differences, the 10th Indigo Girls studio album, retains the leftist leanings of the Girls, addressing socio-political issues with empathy and conviction. At the same time, it has a back-to-basics immediacy, evoking the feel of the artists' live show, pulsing with warm acoustic guitars, crisp, tasty keyboards (played by Froom and longtime band member Carol Isaacs), and the singers' trademark intertwined vocals, with new energy injected by guest artists and Indigo Girls fans, Brandi Carlile and Pink.

Hear the Girls' heartfelt stories up-close in their first visit to Singapore!

Opening for the Girls is homegrown duo 53A featuring the dulcet tones and acoustic-folk-jazz tunes of singer-songwriter Sara Wei and guitarist Alvin Khoo.

Esplanade Concert Hall
7.30pm (110mins, no intermission)
Opening Act by 53A (Singapore)

\$58*, \$88**, \$118

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40*, \$60**

17 Mar (Tue)
Brian McKnight
USA

Which 1990s slow jam fan doesn't know *One Last Cry*? Who hasn't snuggled, cuddled or at least somehow in the deep dark depths of a lonely night found himself humming to at least one Brian McKnight tune on the radio?

Embracing an effortless eloquence and smooth persona, the music of Brian McKnight has defined the true meaning of the American soul man since 1991. Like his spiritual Motown godfathers, this upstate New York native has a pitch perfect voice and silky style that captures the vibe of vintage soul without being old-fashioned.

In an industry of fast-turnaround acts, the fact that Brian has sold around 16 million records and is still creating beautiful music 15 years after releasing his self-titled debut is proof of his innate talent. Like the late Luther Vandross before him, the secret of Brian's rhythmic endurance comes down to his ability to create eternal music.

And yes the man doesn't just sing, he also composes, arranges, produces and plays nine musical instruments. Through funk-infused melodies, Motown-ish mid-tempo grooves and his signature hopelessly romantic soul-pop ballads, Brian's voice croons, soars and swoops with an agility and sweet gentleness that is almost gone from today's modern soul and R&B world.

Esplanade Concert Hall
7.30pm (90mins, no intermission)

\$58*, \$88**, \$118, \$148

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40* and \$60**

18 Mar (Wed)

Battles

USA

"This New York quartet gives ancient prog-rock moves a makeover – and a kick in the pants." - *Rolling Stone*

Think helium-voiced gremlins singing wordlessly to a rollicking military stomp-beat, overlaid with electronics and crisp keyboards cutting across precise electro-acoustic guitar riffs in a tight, slick and utterly riveting grid of interlocking rhythms, hard-driving beats and unexpectedly gleeful, persuasive melody.

This is the electro-rock sound of Battles, described by fans and critics as "techno-rock", "experimental robot rock", "math rock" but more than that, really.

In 2004, the New York band's enigmatic album *EP C* announced Battles' arrival like a blinding succession of Morse Code strobes across an aphotic landscape. It was clear that members Ian Williams, John Stanier, Tyondai Braxton and Dave Konopka had established something utterly unique. Having served time in seminal acts Don Caballero, Helmet, Tomahawk, Lynx and The Mark of Cain amongst others, Battles draws from a sprawling range of styles and sounds and distils this erratic static into the tightest jams to be committed to playable format. Closely following *EP C*, *Tras/Fantasy* served as another definitive dose of labyrinthine, juggernaut rhythms and equilibrium-shifting textures that would safely place the band outside the orbit of any contemporaries. On this first pair of EPs, Stanier's drumming is like pinpoint buckshot, Williams' guitar is sharpened schizophrenia, Braxton's sound manipulations are fragments focused and Konopka's guitar is malleable granite. Late in 2004, Battles unleashed *B EP* and set its cryptic marks in stone.

In 2007's *Mirrored*, Battles' first album demonstrates a significant measure of evolution. With snaking, entrancing harmonies and thundering percussive force, Battles is a distorted reflection of an entire musical diaspora...a view of innovation and tension reverberated as a flash, mirrored.

Esplanade Concert Hall
7.30pm (75mins, no intermission)

\$58*, \$78**

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40*, \$60**

20 Mar (Fri)

The Cinematic Orchestra

UK

“... the blend of live instruments coupled with a bit of electronic wizardry has managed to form a group of musicians capable of seamlessly blending soul, jazz and hip-hop into something truly beautiful and original.” - *Popmatters.com*

At the fore, horns blare, hounded by pounding bassline and clandestine drumbeat. Minutes later, they ebb, turning to echoes as strings draw swirling undercurrents...

Welcome to the wide-screen world of The Cinematic Orchestra (TCO), where an album tells a story and each song evokes a scene via a live band, turntablist, vocalist and electronic samples. Not quite the norm in an era of four-minute tracks and songwriting software, TCO makes music that spans genres from free jazz to post-rock and is meticulously crafted to a script.

TCO was formed by Jason Swinscoe in 1999 when the bassist/guitarist/deejay was working as an export sales employee at Ninja Tune in South London by day and putting together the first TCO album *Motion* in his downtime. A soundtrack to an imaginary thriller, *Motion* (1999) - for which Swinscoe rallied a group of adventurous jazz players and incorporated his love of jazz bass, rhythm sections and film soundtracks - surprised all who heard it and was voted album of the year by listeners of Gilles Peterson's Radio One show. Jay and the evolving TCO's subsequent albums - the orchestral, 10-minute-track *Every Day* (2002), live film score *Man with a Movie Camera* (2003) for a 1929 classic, and the complex, dramatic musical narrative to an imaginary yet-to-be-made film *Ma Fleur* (2007) - featured an unmistakable TCO brilliance and expanse.

The Cinematics have toured North America, Germany, Japan, Italy and Portugal, clocked up music festival mileage, been on radio and TV, and played at the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award for Stanley Kubrick by the Directors Guild.

Esplanade Concert Hall

7.30pm (90mins, no intermission)

\$58*, \$88**, \$118

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40*, \$60**

21 Mar (Sat)

11th Hour - **SOIL & “PIMP” SESSIONS**

Japan

“Dizzily satisfying... unbridled excitement at every turn.” – *BBC.co.uk*

They promised audiences “pulsating live performances...that are rough around the edges, unabashedly entertaining, and constantly kept at boiling point” and the audiences

couldn't get enough, so now they are *BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!* Yes it's SOIL & "PIMP" SESSIONS – the sextet that rocked the house and drove audiences wild at last year's *Mosaic Music Festival* with its killer blend of jazz, rock, psychedelia and ferocious energy.

Made up of six musicians - trumpeter Tabu Zombie, saxophonist Motoharu, pianist Josei, bass player Akita Goldman, drummer Midorin, and agitator Shacho (yes, "agitator", because he stirs up the audience) - SOIL & "PIMP" SESSIONS gives aggressive alternative jazz performances that audiences in Japan and worldwide rave about.

The band got together back in 2001, putting "life" and "live" back into the DJ-dominated Tokyo club scene and closing the gap between jazz band and jazz audience. It has since been championed by Gilles Peterson, won the 2005 *BBC World Wide Award's* John Peel Play More Jazz Award, and performed in over 12 European countries and major international music festivals including *Montreux*, *North Sea*, and more recently, *Glastonbury* and *Fuji Rock*.

Since March 2008, the six have huddled with other musicians and come up with a new album of pure SOIL & "PIMP" gold and exciting collaborations with peers. Titled *Planet Pimp*, this album is a blaze of melody and musical texture delivered with precision, frenetic energy and scorching speed. Experience it performed live!

Esplanade Concert Hall
11pm (70mins, no intermission)

\$58*

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40*

22 Mar (Sun)

Naturally 7

USA

"To call Naturally Seven an impressive live performance would be a huge understatement... the performance could have brought down a stadium." - *The Lonely Note*

From bellowing brass to thumping bass, scratching vinyl to ripping drum solo, every sound that you hear from Naturally 7 emerges from their mouths - naturally. For the hugely-talented US-based, seven-member ensemble does not play musical instruments but delivers its full-bodied music with the most natural instrument of all - the human voice.

Standing out from the plethora of a cappella gospel and R&B groups in the American music scene today, Naturally 7 kicks the late 90s urban sound up many notches with what it calls "vocal play".

Specifically, impressive instrument mimicry and vocal acrobatics in flawless harmonies, the group's vocal play sees its members swapping leads and beats while replicating the sounds of diverse instruments to create full rhythm tracks and the sound of a full band in

an artful blend of various genres of music - gospel, R&B, jazz, funk, hip-hop, rap, soul and beatboxing.

The impact of Naturally 7's music, best experienced live, has inspired standing ovations and rave reviews through the group's five-album career and its tours throughout Europe and the USA. Today, Naturally 7 is stronger than ever, continually evolving to include diverse "instruments" and sounds while staying true to its love for music, its powerful, "sticks and stones can't break these tones" (Wall of Sound) delivery, and its uplifting messages of hope and empathy.

Naturally 7 is Garfield Buckley, Rod Eldridge, Warren Thomas, Jamal Reed, Roger "N'glish" Thomas, Dwight Stewart, and Armand "Hops" Hutton.

Esplanade Concert Hall
7.30pm (70mins, no intermission)

\$58*, \$78**

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$40*, \$60**

Heineken Music Club

13 Mar (Fri)

Mike Stern Band featuring Dave Weckl

USA

"Mike Stern is one of the best electric guitarists of his generation" - Mike Zwerin, *International Herald Tribune*

He's had five Grammy nominations, played with greats like Billy Cobham, Miles Davis, Jaco Pastorius, Victor Wooten, Michael Brecker and Joe Henderson, and released many critically-acclaimed albums. More importantly, he has added punch and vitality to the world of jazz with his expressive, versatile, powerhouse playing and inspired pyrotechnics. He is celebrated fusion-jazz guitarist/composer/bandleader Mike Stern and his is not music for the faint-hearted.

Playing with his band, Mike Stern leads with vigour but gives every member space to explore and shine. The addition of drummer and longtime colleague Dave Weckl gives the band an added kick with cutting-edge drumming by the legendary musician. Of Chick Corea Elektric Band fame, Dave, who also leads his own acclaimed band, has received numerous accolades and honours including being inducted by *Modern Drummer* into their Hall of Fame and named "one of the 25 best drummers of all time".

The result is joyful, intuitive and tight ensemble playing with lots of dynamic interplay, intriguing twists and superb creative energy all round. Experience it for yourself this *Mosaic!*

Heineken Music Club (Esplanade Theatre Studio)
7.30pm, 10pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$48

(includes one drink)

Admission only for patrons aged 18 years and above

14 Mar (Sat)

Psapp

UK

"Psapp make gold out of squeaky toys" - *Rolling Stone*

"Gleeful mischief and philosophical melancholy mix with addictive melodies and electronic frolics..." - *Word*

Toy cats, play guitars, cans, keyboards, languid vocals, rubber ducks, homemade electronics, silly noises and a chicken named Brunhilda come together to create the gloriously quirky, wide-eyed, fun experience that is Psapp.

Psapp is German musician Carim Clasmann and British vocalist and musician Galia Durant - two friends who like making pop songs with invented instruments and odd noises.

Sending fans and critics into happy hysterics (such as *Mojo*: "Arresting, childlike pop confections... effortlessly carved pop sophistication..."; Q: "Weird and wonderful ... Massively inventive"; *9/10 Future Music*: "There is nothing better than listening to an album and loving it but not really knowing why. This is just such an album") since the release of its 2003 debut EP *Do Something Wrong*, the good-humoured toytronica duo has released four other EPs, four albums and one single to rave reviews and cult acclaim in the UK and USA, toured the world with its six-piece band, won awards and had its song *Cosy in the Rocket* chosen as the theme of hit TV series *Grey's Anatomy*.

Heineken Music Club (Esplanade Theatre Studio)

7.30pm, 10pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$48

(includes one drink)

Admission only for patrons aged 18 years and above

15 Mar (Sun) & 16 Mar (Mon)

of Montreal

USA

"Let's have bizarre celebrations!" of Montreal sings in *Wrath Pinned to the Mist* and *Other Games*. And the band does just that in its live concerts.

Tripping out with high-energy electro-pop, synthesised grooves, wacky lyrics, flamboyant costumes and madcap onstage theatrics, of Montreal gives performances that are more hedonistic party than music concert.

Constantly shape-shifting, of Montreal's music cares little for convention or logical sequence. Like founder, songwriter and frontman Kevin Barnes' multiple transgender personalities - which see him morphing from prude to bawd, romantic to sleaze, straight

dude to transsexual in the band's latest album *Skeletal Lamping*, a work that delves into the multi-faceted human psyche - of Montreal's lyrics and music skip from image to image, thought to thought and sound to sound.

Through nutty vaudeville, melancholic indie-pop, groovy disco-funk, slinky electro groove and stomping krautrock, of Montreal is consistently purposeful, playful and surreal, conjuring up images of a digital *Babes in Toyland* for adults only or *Midsummer Night's Dream* gone happily psychedelic.

Over 10 years and nine albums, of Montreal has garnered a cult status and fascinated crowds at the *Coachella* and *Pitchfork Music Festivals* and the *Sundance Film Festival*.

Heineken Music Club (Esplanade Theatre Studio)

7.30pm and

10pm (15 Mar, Sun only)

(60mins, no intermission)

\$48

(includes one drink)

Admission only for patrons aged 18 years and above

20 Mar (Fri)

SKYE

UK

"Tastemakers know the voice; it's the stuff dreams are made of. Incredibly cool, yet oh-so-warm, it is like no other. The voice belongs to SKYE." – *Billboard Magazine*

Soft, smooth and rich as butter, the beguiling voice of SKYE has the unique ability to move listeners without ever seeming to try.

We knew her voice well while it fronted chart-topping British trip-hop-soul group Morcheeba in the beginning, helped Morcheeba albums such as *Big Calm* achieve multi-million record sales and gave the world of trip-hop a warm, sweet tinge. But despite her success, we didn't know the real SKYE - until now.

SKYE's debut solo album, *Mind How You Go*, is both personal credo and a realisation of her inner strength, a sublime collection of evocative little gems in which she tells her own stories and finds her own way. Titled after something her foster mother has been saying to her since she was a child ("Bye bye, take care, mind how you go"), *Mind How You Go* features melodic trip-hop with lush instrumentation, understated electronics, subtle songwriting, immaculate production and unpretentious musings, all brought together by SKYE's soulful voice and always-elegant delivery.

SKYE has toured her new material across Europe, North America and Canada to enthusiastic response (in Italy, her first release *Love Show* maintained a top 20 position for over eight weeks) and rave reviews.

Heineken Music Club (Esplanade Theatre Studio)

7.30pm, 10pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$48

(includes one drink)

Admission only for patrons aged 18 years and above

20 Mar (Fri)

Club M.I.A.

featuring 15th Scenery, Pedicab and New Pants

Thailand, The Philippines and China

Celebrate party music Made In Asia!

In just one night, Club M.I.A. features three all-Asian indie bands playing an infectious party mix that begins with electro-pop, slides into dance-punk pop rock and ends with disco-punk-rock.

15th Scenery from Thailand delivers fun Thai electro-pop in English and Thai with girly vocals from frontwoman Bee, catchy melodies on the guitar, old-school moog synthesiser and other instruments, and an easy-breezy attitude best described by their hit song, *Happy like a Honeybee*.

Pedicab from The Philippines doles out energetic dance-punk (affectionately called "dunk" by the band) with its members hailing from other famous pinoy bands like Sandwich and Cambio. The band's use of vintage analog synthesisers as well as its quirky vocal style have also given Pedicab a sound reminiscent of 80s synthpop, but with a garage rock flavour. Expect madcap onstage antics, identical costumes, strange English and Tagalog lyrics, and a total disregard for seriousness.

New Pants isn't a Chinese clothing line but a Beijing band that's been making waves, packing stadiums and winning MTV and other awards with its peculiar brand of 80s electro-and-New-Wave-influenced disco-punk-rock featuring bouncy synth melodies, stomp beats, random sampling, vocoderised vocals singing droll Mandarin and English lyrics, and yes, complete with colourful pants.

Heineken Music Club (Esplanade Theatre Studio)

9.30pm (180mins, with short breaks)

\$38

(includes one drink)

Admission only for patrons aged 18 years and above

Mosaic Studio

14 Mar (Sat)

GAIA

Featuring Gene Lake, Grégoire Maret, Federico Gonzalez Peña

USA

"...when he digs into a solo, whether it's on an uptempo bebop romp, an earthy blues shuffle or some slamming hip-hop flavored funk, he instantly elevates the proceedings with a perfect blend of passion and stunning virtuosity that has audience members shouting out encouragement from their seats." - *JazzTimes* (on Grégoire Maret)

"...shimmering with the take-'em-to-church keyboards of Federico Gonzalez Peña." - *The Washington Post*

"...actually stole the boss's thunder with a terrific drum solo spliced into the middle of the Dizzy Gillespie/Chano Pozo chestnut, Tin Tin Deo." - *Timesunion* (on Gene Lake performing with David Sanborn)

Fresh on the jazz scene and already making waves, GAIA brings together the remarkable talents of longtime friends and colleagues - harmonica wunderkind **Grégoire Maret**, pianist/keyboardist **Federico Gonzalez Peña**, and master drummer **Gene Lake** - in an organic, searing, liquid brew of nu jazz, jam, blues, bop, jazz and funk.

One of the most sought-after harmonica players today across the jazz, pop, rock, funk and R&B worlds, Grégoire Maret has worked with musical greats such as Reggie Workman, Charles Tolliver, Patato Valdez, Max Roach, Tito Puente, Duke Ellington Orchestra and David Sanborn, won a Grammy as part of the Pat Metheny Group for "Best Contemporary Jazz Album", and currently tours, records and performs with renowned artists such as Marcus Miller and Herbie Hancock.

Uruguay-born and Argentina-raised, gifted pianist/keyboardist/composer Federico Gonzalez Peña has enjoyed a 20-year association with Me'shell N'DegeOcello that has resulted in highlights such as various albums, Grammy nominations and world tours. Federico has also worked with Maxwell, Angela Boffill, Pieces of a Dream, Digable Planets, Roy Hargrove and Chaka Khan, and recently joined the ranks of Marcus Miller's band and SMV - Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller and Victor Wooten - on their tours.

An all-round drummer who cut his teeth on Midwestern funk and avant-garde jazz, Gene Lake has been playing for many years with a diverse range of artists across the genres of R&B, jazz, fusion, rap and rock, constantly seeking out the musically innovative while remaining grounded in the basics of funk. The son of jazz saxophonist Oliver Lake, Gene has played with a diverse range of artists from R&B acts such as Me'Shell Ndegeocello, Maxwell and D'Angelo to jazz innovators, Steve Coleman and Henry Threadgill, to fusion legend, Joe Zawinul.

Mosaic Studio (Esplanade Recital Studio)
9.30pm (75mins, no intermission)

\$38*

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$25*

15 Mar (Sun)

En Este Momento: Claudia Acuña

USA

"Claudia's vocals are strong and clear, and her grasp of the nuances of vocalizing put[s] her a notch above. By the end of the track the band is in high gear and Claudia is positively smoking!" - *JazzUSA.com*

Described by *Newsday* as having "the voice of an angel", Claudia Acuna sends critics to hyperbole with each performance and recording for she is a rare artist who truly compels, whether heard on the living room player or in live performance.

The Chilean singer/songwriter/arranger's love for music began with Chilean folk/pop, rock, fusion and opera, and later moved on to American jazz. Since then, she has made a name for herself in the Santiago and New York jazz circuits, recording, touring and performing with the likes of Billy Childs, George Benson, Trio de Paz, Christian McBride, Makoto Ozone, Pablo Ziegler and Joey Calderazzo, performing at international music festivals, being appointed Chile's Cultural and Musical Ambassador, and releasing three acclaimed albums, *Wind from the South*, *Rhythm of Life* and *Luna*.

Sung in English and Spanish, the albums seamlessly blend her myriad musical influences into a sultry, contemporary fusion of South American and American jazz-folk-rock, delivered with strength, poignancy and articulation.

Claudia's appearance at the *Mosaic Music Festival* coincides with her brand new release on Marsalis Music, *En Este Momento*, and kicks off her album's world-tour. Produced by Branford Marsalis, *En Este Momento* sees Claudia performing music from her South American roots as well as her own originals. Performing with Claudia will be bandmates Jason Lindner (piano), Juancho Herrerra (guitar), Vicente Archer (bass), and Tony Escapa (drums).

Swaying and soaring above handsome layers of smokin' hot Latin rhythm, jazzy piano, subtle guitar and a quietly driving bassline, Claudia sings poetry in her clear, sultry alto, every note and word, deeply felt.

Mosaic Studio (Esplanade Recital Studio)
7.30pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$38*

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$25*

17 Mar (Tue)

Old Man River

Australia

"an intense heart opening experience. Think of a sunny day and The Beatles post-India having tea with Beck, while Bob Dylan's outside in the alley crying, open bible in his hands, as he listens to the whispers of Gillian Welch." - *Soulshine*

With guitar, sitars, drums, an occasional keyboard and a travelling man's eye, Old Man River wanders freely through the genres of funk, blues and 60s-style folk, the music of the East, Middle East and West and his experiences of Israel, New York, India, London and his native Sydney, taking in all he encounters to create uplifting musical stories of love, life, struggle and sunshine.

One of Australia's most unique music-makers, Old Man River is Sydney-born and Israel-raised singer-songwriter Ohad Rein and his band. Ohad emerged solo on the Australian music scene in 2004 with a rootsy little ditty called *Sunshine* that blew listeners away with its joyful blend of sitars, jangly guitars, earthy vocals and grooving rhythms.

Since then, *Sunshine* has graced the telly for Australia's Bonds commercials, and Ohad has released a debut album, *Good Morning*, and toured as Old Man River - now grown into a full band - to India, Japan, Italy, Germany, Israel, UK and USA, shared stages in Australia with The Violent Femmes, Iron and Wine, Josh Pyke, The Sleepy Jackson, Damien Rice and Newton Faulkner, performed at festivals such as *Homebake*, *Splendour in the Grass* and *The East Coast Blues and Roots Festival*, and secured a number 1 single in Japan, a number 2 single in Italy and top 5 albums and singles in Australia and Europe.

Journey with Old Man River through love's tender dreams, neverending roads, Queensland's dark nights and cherished memories this evening to emerge with a spring in your step and a song in your heart.

Mosaic Studio (Esplanade Recital Studio)
7.30pm, 9.30pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$38*

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$25*

18 Mar (Wed)

Seckou Keita SKQ

Senegal

"Audiences may not recognize it's the historical interpretations peppered throughout *The Silimbo Passage*. And a great many listeners may not care that history is being made with Keita's technical and musical innovations. What shines through is the beauty of the music, born from the heart and soul of a little boy chasing tradition and fulfilling his lifelong passion." – *Rock Paper Scissors*

A cascade of crystal clear strings that switch in a blink from sweet glissando to blisteringly fast runs to quiet lament, rich polyrhythmic texture, pulsing bass, singing violin, smooth grooves, haunting vocals, storytelling lyrics, percussive tone colours, vice-tight delivery and joyful charisma...the Afro-Mandika-soul-jazz-classical fusion music of the Seckou Keita Quintet (SKQ) catches the audience up in its gentle surge and takes everyone's breath away.

Hailing from Senegal, Italy, Egypt and Gambia, SKQ has captivated audiences from Montreal to Manchester, Sweden to Senegal and released two critically acclaimed albums, *Afro-Mandika Soul* (2006) and *The Silimbo Passage* (2008).

An exciting fusion of culture and experience, the multi-national ensemble comprises kora (a 21-string West African harp-lute) maestro Seckou Keita with world-class artists Davide Mantovani on the double bass/electric bass, Surahata Susso supplying eclectic

percussions, Samy Bishai on the violin and Seckou's sister, Binta Susso of the bright vocals.

Descended from a long line of distinguished musicians/oral historians (of the griot tradition), Senegal-born and UK-based Seckou Keita, dubbed by the media as "The Hendrix of The Kora", leads the band with experimental tunings, virtuosic kora playing, and a innovative blend of ancient West African kora and griot traditions with contemporary styles and sounds.

Even if we might not understand the words, the music of SKQ speaks to those who will listen in its subtle, thoughtful beauty.

Mosaic Studio (Esplanade Recital Studio)
7.30pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$38*

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$25*

20 Mar (Fri)

Electro Green

by Shuta Hasunuma and Team POP OOGA

Japan

"The glitchy electronic textures and expressive piano work invoke imagined memories of a dreamlike world." – *NPR's Second Stage*

At *Electro Green*, enter a magical, off-kilter playground of half-remembered happy dreams, where the sky is the lightest of blues, where clockwork birds chirp and chatter, and gurgling streams trickle amidst blooms and maples. Wrapped in the snug, sunny warmth of this enchanted place, curl up, laugh and play even as a softly whirling disquiet colours the air.

In Japanese musician and sound artist Shuta Hasunuma's music, band instrumentation (guitars, bass, drums and keys), field recordings (such as birdsong and street chatter), filtered electronics, speech and song fragments and more are layered together with simple and surprisingly beautiful melodies to create meticulously crafted, organic soundscapes that take the listener through whimsy, escapade, contemplation, wandering, comfort and rest.

Tokyo-based Shuta has released four albums since 2006 on Western Vinyl (USA) and the most famous Japanese electronic label PROGRESSIVE FORM and HEADZ. This concert features Shuta and his band Team POP OOGA, comprising Ryosuke Saito (electric guitar and bass), Shuta Ishizuka (electric and acoustic guitar), Jimanica (drums), with a similarly playful visual landscape created by Shuta and Masato Tsutsui.

Mosaic Studio (Esplanade Recital Studio)
9.30pm (75mins, no intermission)

\$38*

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$25*

21 Mar (Sat)
Mélanie Pain
France

Delivering confessional folk-pop chansons in English and French with the coy, breathy vocals of an ingénue, Mélanie Pain has the sort of oeuvre and style that inspire descriptions like "sugar and spice", "naughty but nice".

As one of the main voices of loungey, stripped-down, vintage New Wave French group Nouvelle Vague since their debut album in 2004, she seduced audiences with sassy sweetness on originals and covers like "This is Not a Love Song", "Teenage Kicks", "Killing Moon", "Ever Fallen in Love" and "Dance with Me".

Now Mélanie has come up with *My Name*, her own debut solo album which incorporates personal reflections and influences such as Françoise Hardy, Nick Cave, Claudine Longet, Nancy Sinatra and Leonard Cohen in an intimate, charming mix of French pop with a dash of folk and Americana. Hear songs from the album performed live by Mélanie (vocals, percussion, toy keyboards, turntables) and her backup band (guitar, keyboards) with inventive playing, minimal instrumentation and the vintage sound of vinyls.

If the music doesn't take you into the faintly smoky echoes of an imagined, vintage Parisian coffeeshop, it will surely ease you, semi-intoxicated, into the night.

Mosaic Studio (Esplanade Recital Studio)
7.30pm, 9.30pm (60mins, no intermission)

\$38*

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$25*

22 Mar (Sun)
Wolfgang-Acoustica
The Philippines

"The band of the 90s - Wolfgang - put the stamp of heavy metal and hard rock with balls and melody on the Pinoy sound...stormed the underground [and] forced those "above ground" to turn cultish..." - *People Asia Magazine*

Precision riffs, emphatic beats, tuneful vocals, strong melodic hooks, colourful licks, driving ostinatos, occasionally jazz-styled basslines and imaginative breaks merge with razor-sharp interplay in Wolfgang's style of American-influenced hard rock, heavy metal, grunge and blues-rock.

The four-man band's ability to infuse everything they do - be it power ballads, progressive rock songs, bluesy tunes or the harder-hitting stuff - with tunefulness has made it the only Filipino rock act to be released in both the USA and Japan, as well as the only Filipino heavy metal act to breach platinum records on home ground and

receive local "Artist of the Year", "Album of the Year", "Listeners Choice" and individual NU Rock awards.

Now, 16 years, more than 20 awards, much acclaim, a huge underground and mass market following and a six-year break later, Wolfgang, still hailed as the Philippines' top rock act, has just released its sixth studio album, *Villains*.

Hear music from that long-awaited release as well as previous albums transmuted to an unbearable lightness of being in an unusual Wolfgang concert. Usually amped up for a thick, ferocious onslaught of sound, Wolfgang strips down and goes acoustic in this concert, taking metal and hard rock back to its blues roots.

Wolfgang is Basti Artadi on vocals, Wolf Gemora on drums, Manuel Legarda on guitars and Mon Legaspi on bass, with guest guitarist Tirso Ripoll of Razorback, performing in English and Tagalog.

Mosaic Studio (Esplanade Recital Studio)
7.30pm (70mins, no intermission)

\$38*

Limited concessions for students, NSF and senior citizens: \$25*

Visit www.mosaicmusicfestival.com for info on Masterclasses and workshops and a range of free programmes throughout the festival.

Tickets available at Esplanade Box Office and all SISTIC outlets.
Exclusive priority bookings for *Mosaic* Friends and other packages available at www.mosaicmusicfestival.com.