

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fusion music is the name of the game at Chutzpah!

Vancouver, BC – Argentinean folk with a dollop of jazz and a slice of tango. Inspired electronic urban folk with hip-hop beats. The exciting and dynamic musical line-up at Chutzpah! 2008 showcases such fusion stylings, and will also feature myriad other genres including a musical, opera, folk, klezmer and world music. As well, the diverse breadth of programming for Chutzpah! 2008 includes three Vancouver premieres and promises to satisfy any musical preference.

“The music program for 2008 includes several groups that have incorporated traditional Jewish music into a variety of contemporary styles,” says Chutzpah! Artistic and Managing Director Mary-Louise Albert. “And, our eighth season line-up showcases gifted performers from around the world and here at home: performers from New York, Israel, Argentina, and Canada will come together at Chutzpah!”

BALKAN BEAT BOX **Direct for New York and Israel** ***Vancouver Premiere***

Balkan Beat Box, described by co-founder Ori Kaplan as “Mediterranean dancehall” and “Balkan-inspired electronic urban folk, with hip-hop beats,” was founded by the New York-based duo of Kaplan and Tamir Muskat, both born and raised in Israel. Previously, Muskat played in the bands Firewater and Big Lazy, Kaplan in Gogol Bordello. They met in the New York music scene, discovered musical interests in common, and in 2004 formed Balkan Beat Box in Brooklyn.

To experience Balkan Beat Box is to enter a magical circus-like concert like no other. The rhythms are wild. The musical influences vary from rap to folk, klezmer to pop, jazz to punk, and rock to industrial. And the cultural inspirations are many: the sounds of Bulgaria, Morocco, Spain, Israel, Turkey and New York’s underground rock scene are all manifest in a glorious, rocking mix. The band has been lauded critically all over the world, and was recently a nominee for a BBC Radio 3 Award for World Music 2007 in the Club Global category.

Co-presented by Chutzpah! The Lisa Nemetz Showcase of Jewish Performing Arts, Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and the Chan Centre

When: Saturday, March 1 at 8:00 pm

Where: Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC
Chan Shun Concert Hall

KLEZMER BUENOS AIRES: LERNER MOGULEVSKY DUO

Accompanied on percussion by Boris Sichon

Direct from Argentina

Vancouver Premiere

"Surrender yourself to their ecstatic joy . . . dance with it. Moguilevsky and Lerner are your hosts, satisfaction guaranteed." –Carlos Pages, *Contumancia Magazine*

With their popular instrumental sound — made up of Argentinean folk, jazz, contemporary music and tango — the Argentinean duo of Marcelo Moguilevsky and César Lerner will thrill and amaze. Like a full symphony, these multi-instrumentalists play clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano sax, wooden flutes, harmonica, bagpipe, duduk, piano, accordion and percussion, as well as sing. Since 1996, the duo have been major contributors to the resurgence of klezmer (they formed as a duo two decades ago), and are the main proponents of that style of music in their country.

Moguilevsky and Lerner are descended from Polish and Russian Jewish families who moved to Argentina at the turn of the last century. In the past year, they have performed in Germany, Austria, Poland, the Berkeley Jewish Festival and at Stanford University. They have three CDs and are also composers for film, theatre and dance, collaborating with a number of musicians.

Chutzpah! favourite Boris Sichon will accompany on percussion.

When: Wednesday, February 27 at 8:00 pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

Direct from New York

"Turkish hash bars meet Hasidic Brooklyn juke joints with '70's era psych rock well in tow."

–J-Sin, *Smother*

Pharaoh's Daughter is the brainchild of New Yorker Basya Schechter who leads the band in Hasidic chants, Mizrachi and Sephardi folk-rock and spiritual stylings filtered through percussion, flute, strings and electronica. Her sound is formed by a Hasidic music background and travels to the Middle East, Africa, Israel, Egypt, Central Africa, Turkey, Kurdistan and Greece.

Schechter has recorded three albums with Pharaoh's Daughter and one with Persian santur player, Alan Kushan. Pharaoh's Daughter has toured extensively throughout America, Eastern and Western Europe, as well as Greece and the UK. The band had the honour of debuting at Central Park's Summer Stage series in August 2004, and has played such prestigious stages as Lincoln Center's Damrosch Park and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London.

When: Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00 pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Centre, JCCGV

THE FLYING BULGARS

Celebrating their 20th anniversary and new CD

"...Unashamed passion and melodrama, brash and brassy, intensely rhythmic, bold and bumptious... They took the Shetland Islands by storm." – *The Glasgow Spectrum*

This Canadian band, formerly known as The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, will descend upon Chutzpah!'s Closing Night event with six fantastic musicians: celebrated jazz man and band founder, David Buchbinder; accomplished drummer, Frank Botos; Peter Lutek on clarinet and bass clarinet; bass master Victor Bateman; renowned Canadian pianist Tania Gill; and, singer Dave Wall (formerly of the Bourbon Tabernacle Choir). Formed by Buchbinder in 1987, it's been a wild ride for The Flying Bulgars. The Toronto-based band has toured all over Canada, the US, and Europe. Known for original innovative modern music based in traditional Yiddish sounds, they've recorded five critically acclaimed CDs and received two Juno nominations. They're still the only klezmer band to have created music videos, which have received a lot of play on MuchMusic.

When: Sunday, March 2 at 8:30 pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV

SOCALLED

Direct from Montreal Vancouver Premiere

"Klezmer gets a jolt of yo from hip-hop Canadian" – *Jewish News Weekly* (San Francisco)

It's funny that rap brought Jewish kid Josh Dolgin (AKA Socalled) to Jewish music. Searching for records to sample while studying at McGill, he stumbled across some old Jewish folk music. The result is his hybrid style of Jewish hip-hop and album titles like *The Socalled Seder*. Montreal-based Dolgin was born in Ottawa and raised in Chelsea, Quebec. He played the piano as a kid and the accordion in high school and was in all sorts of bands: salsa, gospel, rock, funk. Then, he discovered hip-hop and MIDI, and the rest is history. He's appeared on many albums as pianist, singer, arranger, rapper, writer, and producer. He also rocks with fellow klezmer-hybrid musician David Krakauer in Klezmer Madness!, sings with Toronto's Beyond the Pale, performs with Shtreiml in Montreal, and with LA-based the Aleph Project. Socalled performs and records with "a crew of mixed-up freaks and geniuses" from around the world, including Killah Priest, Susan Hoffman-Watts, Frank London and Irving Fields.

When: Sunday, February 24 at 9:00 pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV

THE FRINGE GROUP AND NOAH SHILKIN
Concert Double Bill

The Fringe Group is a Vancouver-based percussion quartet embracing the cultural traditions of North and South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Last summer, this cutting-edge ensemble performed a long-lost John Cage composition for FUSE at the Vancouver Art Gallery. For their Chutzpah! concert, members Jonathan Bernard, Martin Fisk, Brian Nesselroad and Daniel Tones communicate with many generations and many cultures, lending itself well to the multi-faceted, multicultural nature of the contemporary music scene.

"i've walked on cars
i've danced on bars
i've been to the wailing wall"
—from *Peter O'Toole* by **Noah Shilkin**

Noah Shilkin, an Australian native, has worked with superstars like Alanis Morissette, AC/DC and Bryan Adams, and has more than 300 songs in his repertoire, including the Voodoo Opera *Under a Mardi Gras Moon*. He's also a former member (singer/keyboardist) of the popular 1970s/1980s New Zealand band, Mother Goose. And, he's even composed music for companies such as Nike, Chevrolet, Calvin Klein and General Motors. His own brand of folk-pop with gentle melodies and intelligent lyrics has found a loyal following with literally thousands of performances around the world. In 2002, Shilkin and fellow-music-guru Amos Carlen founded Brumby Music where they develop, manage and promote new artists; write and produce with those artists and others; compose custom audio for TV and Film; and publish and license songs and music.

When: Monday, February 25 at 9:00 pm

Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre, JCCGV

MIRI LEVI
Direct from New York

Think you know something about opera? This show "Definitely IS the Opera," but it'll bust apart any previous notions of the art. Be prepared for mind-blowing oratorio and opera selections performed by Vancouver native Miri Levi (daughter of Chutzpah! namesake, Lisa Nemetz). Levi will be joined by singers from her home studio in New York—Anna Kirkland and Pérez Gonzalez—and will be accompanied by Gary Norden (who has partnered with Metropolitan Opera stars Robert Peters and Jerome Hines). The night will include duets like Rossini's *Comic Duet of Two Cats* and staged scenes from popular operas, such as Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. A recent graduate of New York City's The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Levi has been touring in Europe performing in *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Ballo in Maschera*, *Carmen* and with classical ensemble, Festive Voices.

When: Sunday, February 24 at 7:00 pm

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Visit the Festival's website at www.chutzpahfestival.com for complete information. Tickets can be purchased by phone (604-257-5145), online at www.chutzpahfestival.com or www.ticketstonight.ca, or in person at the JCCGV beginning Jan. 15 (950 West 41st Ave).