

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **2010 Juno Award-nominated Jaffa Road joins Israeli musician Yair Dalal for *Musical Melding***

**Toronto, Ontario, March 29, 2010** – Koffler Centre of the Arts proudly presents the second concert in the *Musical Melding* series, featuring **Jaffa Road** together with **Yair Dalal**, on **Sunday, April 25, 2 PM** at **Hugh's Room**, 2261 Dundas Street West, Toronto.

*Musical Melding* is an exciting series featuring dynamic collaborations between eclectic musicians and Jaffa Road, Canada's ambassadors of cutting-edge Diaspora Roots music from the global crossroads.

With electrifying onstage chemistry, **Jaffa Road** combines original and ancient poetry sung in Hebrew, Spanish and English with pulsating dub grooves, belly dance rhythms, ambient electronic textures, and exhilarating improvisations. Challenging accepted notions of Jewish music while creating a new form that breaks cultural boundaries, they are part of a growing international movement for the revitalization of Diaspora Hebrew art and culture.

Jaffa Road will perform a one-of-a-kind concert together with the prolific Israeli musician **Yair Dalal**, who plays an important role in shaping the global world music scene today. Born in Israel, Dalal's family originates from Baghdad, and his Iraqi roots are embedded in his music. He creates new Middle Eastern sounds by interweaving the traditions of Iraqi and Jewish-Arabic music with a range of influences originating from such diverse cultural milieus as the Balkans and India. The evocative compositions comprise a unique and colourful sound.

This unique musical collaboration with Jaffa Road is Yair Dalal's first performance in Canada and is part of a North American tour for Dalal that includes stops in Florida, Montreal, Boston, and the Lincoln Centre in New York.

**Jaffa Road** performs with **Yair Dalal** on **Sunday, April 25, 2010, 2 PM** (doors at 1 PM) at **Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas Street West, Toronto**. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Hugh's Room by calling **416-531-6604**.

While in Toronto, Yair Dalal will also visit with schools and various community groups to speak about his work in preserving musical heritages and in connecting Jews and Arabs through arts and culture. He will teach the masterclass *Bridge to Babylon* on **Monday, April 26, 7:30 PM** at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. This masterclass offers the opportunity to study the extraordinary world of Middle Eastern music with a special focus on Jewish-Arabic musical culture.

For more information on *Bridge to Babylon* and to register, call 416.638.1881 x4268 or [registration@kofflerarts.org](mailto:registration@kofflerarts.org). Yair Dalal's residency in Toronto is presented by the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

### **About Jaffa Road**

Jaffa Road is an acclaimed Toronto-based world music group made up of some of Canada's most exciting and virtuosic interpreters of inter-cultural music. The group is nominated for the 2010 Juno award for world music album of the year. Jaffa Road has created a unique sonic landscape that draws easily and organically from the worlds of sacred and secular Jewish songs, Classical Arabic and Indian music, modern jazz, rock, pop, and dub. In doing so, the group creates a union between acoustic and electronic, secular and sacred, ancient and modern. Collectively the band members are well known and sought after players nationally and internationally. They have performed and recorded with many highly regarded influential musicians in the Canadian and International pop, rock, jazz, and world music scenes.

Jaffa Road is comprised of founder and multi-instrumentalist/music therapist **Aaron Lightstone** (guitar, oud, saz, synthesizer), the ethereal vocals of multilingual lead singer **Aviva Chernick** (Levon Ichakhanian, Ernie Tollar, Tania Gill, Andrew Downing, Mitch Smolkin and Klezmer Buenos Aires), the visionary grooves of bassist **Chris Gartner** (Chantal Kreviazuk, members of both The Band and Barenaked Ladies, Mary Margaret O'Hara, Tasa), the entrancing sounds of saxophonist/flutist **Sundar Viswanathan** (Wynton Marsalis, Al Martino, the Grammy-nominated Charles Tolliver Big

Band, Bobby Vinton, Kiran Ahluwalia, Tasa) and the driving beat of percussionist **Jeff Wilson** (Maza Mezé, David Buchbinder, and multiple award winning Sultans of String). For more information on Jaffa Road: [www.jaffaroad.com](http://www.jaffaroad.com)

### **About Yair Dalal**

Yair Dalal is a composer, violinist, oud player and singer. Much of Dalal's work reflects his extensive musical skills in both classical and Arabic music and also reflects a strong affinity he has for the desert and its habitants. [Dalal has performed around the world both in solo concerts and with his Alol ensemble.](#) He has collaborated with top international musicians from different disciplines, including celebrated western classical conductor and Maestro Zubin Mehta, Jordi Savall and Hesperion XXI, the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Kamerata Jerusalem Orchestra, and many more. Dalal participates and lectures in various music educational institute in Israel and worldwide and is also the initiator of Mediterranean Musical Dialogue in Israel. Apart from creating music, Dalal devotes his time to preserving musical heritages from becoming extinct – the Babylonian musical heritage and the music of the Bedouin (the Sinai desert nomads).

Dalal is also a peace activist, devoting much of his time and energy to helping to remove ideological barriers between different cultures and, in particular between Jews and Arabs. For more information on Yair Dalal: [www.yairdalal.com](http://www.yairdalal.com)

**Musical Melding: Jaffa Road with Yair Dalal** is produced by **Jaffa Road** and **Koffler Centre of the Arts**, and is presented together with **Small World Music Society** and **New Israel Fund of Canada**. Support has been generously provided by the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

### **About the Koffler Centre of the Arts**

Koffler Centre of the Arts is a Jewish cultural institution with a broad mandate to serve all, and present a wide range of artistic programs through a global lens in a specifically Canadian context. The Koffler's mission is to bring people together through arts and culture to create a more civil and global society. Its unique mix examines the arts across different disciplines and cultures in a way that strengthens identity while encouraging an appreciation of difference. Headquartered just north of Sheppard Avenue at 4588 Bathurst Street in the brand new Prosserman JCC, the Koffler Centre of the Arts features: the Koffler Gallery with changing contemporary exhibitions (currently programming off-site); visual art exhibitions, student exhibitions and more; fully-equipped studios for ceramics, painting and drawing, dance, and music rehearsals; and a variety of other programmatic spaces. The 2010-2011 season includes major visual arts exhibitions, artist talks, lectures, film, music, dance, comedy, and literary performances often presented in partnership with other arts organizations. The Koffler presents the annual Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards and the Jewish Book Fair as part of its growing literary repertoire along with over 65 classes for all ages as part of the Koffler Schools of Dance, Visual Arts, and Music. Koffler Centre of the Arts is an affiliate of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Planning is underway on a brand new 40,000 square foot, architecturally innovative Koffler Centre of the Arts on the Sherman Campus, anticipated to open in 2014. In July 2009, the Koffler's administrative offices and all classes opened in the Prosserman JCC on the Sherman Campus. More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

Koffler Centre of the Arts gratefully acknowledges the support of its patrons and members, Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy**, Art Aficionado Sponsors **Trinity Development Group** and **Weirfoulds LLP**, and the **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**.

### **KOFFLER ON THE ROAD!**

Watch for Koffler programs off-site around Toronto! As we prepare for our new facility to be completed, the Koffler Centre of the Arts is continuing to program exhibitions, events and performances both at our current facilities and at various downtown sites in Toronto. Check our website for details and watch out for Koffler events in **your** neighbourhood!

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