

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Israeli musical superstar Kobi Oz to perform new music for the first time in Toronto

Toronto, Ontario, October 1, 2009 – Koffler Centre of the Arts proudly presents a one-night-only performance by Israeli musical superstar **Kobi Oz**. Oz will perform ***Psalms for the Perplexed*** in Toronto for the first time outside of Israel on **Sunday, November 8, 2009** at **The Mod Club Theatre**.

Kobi Oz is the former lead singer and songwriter for the internationally acclaimed Israeli group **Teapacks**. For this special Toronto performance, Oz is accompanied by an acoustic band of Israeli musicians, including **Johnny Koren, Noam Shlomo** and **Adam Mader**.

Psalms for the Perplexed is the result of Oz's explorations of the depths of ancient Jewish text and modern Israeli life. With simultaneous translation in English, this moving show draws on Talmud and Torah, urban realities and secular sensibilities, witty midrash, and deep contemplation. Oz's music dances around the misty areas between belief and non-belief, past and present, certainty and doubt.

Psalms for the Perplexed has been performed in Israel to critical acclaim and sold-out venues, with multi-faceted audiences ranging from the staunchly secular to Ultra-Orthodox. The concert in Toronto will be presented in Hebrew accompanied by English translations projected on a screen above the stage.

Kobi Oz performs in Toronto on **Sunday, November 8, 2009, 8 PM** at **The Mod Club Theatre, 722 College Street**. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$25 at the door. Advance tickets are available online through **TicketWeb**, www.ticketweb.ca or by calling **1-888-222-6608**. Door tickets will be available at the Mod Club Theatre the day of the show.

About Kobi Oz

Kobi Oz is a musician, producer, social activist, founder and lead singer of the popular Israeli group Teapacks (who represented Israel in the 2007 Eurovision Song Contest), and author of the books *Petty Hoodlum* (2002) and *Moshe Chuato and the Raven* (1996). Born in Sderot, Israel in 1969, he began creating and playing music at the age of 15, starting out playing keyboards for the band *Sfatayim* performing traditional Moroccan music. Oz has played thousands of live performances, filled concert halls, festivals, and a host of high-profile events in Israel and around the world. Kobi Oz lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Kobi Oz is presented by the **Koffler Centre of the Arts**, together with the **Mifgash Program/The Israeli Forum, Canada-Israeli Cultural Foundation**, and **Israeli House**.

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's Donald Gales Family Pavilion, 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 2009-2010 season includes major visual arts exhibitions, artist talks, lectures, film, music, dance, 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. In July 2009, the Koffler's administrative offices and all classes opened in the Donald Gales Family Pavilion of 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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