



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, July 30, 2010

WHO: Avishai Cohen: "Aurora" CD Release
Ladino Jazz and Clave Cantatas: Bassist Avishai Cohen Sings Roots into Gold

WHERE: Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles Street West. Toronto

WHEN: Tuesday, October 19, 8:00pm

TIX: \$30 advance / \$45 at door (advance tix available at TicketWeb)

PRESENTED BY: Koffler Centre of the Arts together with the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation
www.kofflerarts.org

AVISHAI COHEN "AURORA" CD RELEASE



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"One of the most gifted bassists of his generation is finding his own voice as a composer."

The New Yorker

"A transcendent example of the capacity of music...to reach beyond geographical and political boundaries."

Los Angeles Times

"A jazz visionary of global proportions."

Downbeat

"This new album imposes a grace beyond the jazz. this grace has something to do with antique oriental music, flamenco, folk and pop music: a bright blend distilled with mastery."

Le Journal du Dimanche, France

"Creates a refined, evolving oeuvre, singular and distinctive. His medium-bodied, textured vocals convey deep feeling and dark mystery."

MOJO

[Toronto ON] On **Tuesday, October 19**, world renowned Israeli bassist **Avishai Cohen** makes his premiere headlining Canadian appearance at Toronto's **Isabel Bader Theatre** during his North American CD Release tour of "**Aurora**".

Declared **one of the 100 Most Influential Bass Players of the 20th Century** by **Bass Player Magazine**, Avishai Cohen is an alchemist at heart. Finding inspiration in musicians ranging from Bach to Stevie Wonder, Avishai can transform a tired Israeli school tune back into poetic gold. He can take the Sephardic melodies his grandfather sang in prayer, or that his mother hummed while washing dishes, and make them groove. In turn, he can take a sinuous and spontaneous jazz bass line and transform it into a top forty hit.

Along with the vibrant Sephardic and Baroque sounds of his childhood, Avishai's sojourn in New York during the 90s made an indelible stamp on his music, where he played with jazz great **Chick Corea** and as many Latin ensembles as he could manage, drawing on Latin grooves, tucking and transforming them into his arrangements.

Avishai's joyful powers of transformation are in full force on *Aurora* (EMI/Blue Note), an album turning his roots into lyrical, intense songs that showcase not only Avishai's masterful bass and lifelong musical loves, but his newfound voice.

Cohen sings in Hebrew, English, Spanish and Ladino, as the music draws its source from the earth of his home country and at the crossroads of cultures -- Arab-Andalusian and Hebraic -- telling the story of Bedouins of the desert and of life, love, youth and freedom. Jazz naturally remains at the heart of this original universe -- the ideal meeting place for all kinds of encounters. *Aurora* is a work of synergy under the Blue Note label, which for years has represented cutting edge jazz, of which Avishai Cohen is undeniably the most modern and irresistible standard-bearer.

Shifting between languages and genres, as oud vibrates alongside piano chords, Avishai speaks with a voice that is both global and local, universally resonant and yet deeply personal. All thanks to an unexpected turn to song: "The voice is always fresh because it's such a human, ever-evolving instrument," Avishai reflects. "You can never know what to expect and you can never master it, even if you try to gain as much control as you can. It's a healthy but paradoxical thing, like the heart."

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TIX: **\$30 advance / \$45 door / \$18 student** (advance only, limited number available)

(advance tix available at [TicketWeb](#))

ARTIST <http://www.avishaicohen.com>
INFO: <http://www.avishaicohenmusic.com>

EVENT <http://www.kofflerarts.org>
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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.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of its patrons and members, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy and the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

COMING SOON AT KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS:

MIXEDFIT: KOFFLER GALLERY OFF-SITE

September 21 to November 28

Wearable works of art from Canadian and international artists examining the notions of crossing geographic and cultural boundaries. Limited edition silkscreened T-shirts will be available at Balisi stores throughout the city. Presented together with Printopolis: International Symposium on Printmaking.

TORONTO JEWISH BOOK FAIR

October 23 to 31 | Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Road

The 34th Annual Toronto Jewish Book Fair returns, featuring David Grossman, George Gilder, Anna Porter, Tarek Fatah, and more.

MUSIC THAT SURVIVED PRESENTED BY THE KOFFLER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Sunday, November 7 | Congregation Temple Emanu-El, 120 Old Colony Rd

Inspired by the theme for Holocaust Education Week, the celebrated Koffler Chamber Orchestra performs music that survived the persecution of Jewish artists in Eastern Europe before the World War II.