



Music Conservatory of Westchester To Host Special Jazz Concert Series

Performances by acclaimed Jazz musicians throughout March, April, and May

White Plains, NY (March 17, 2011) – The Music Conservatory of Westchester, the county's premiere school for the arts, will host a series of jazz concerts featuring acclaimed performers Rale Micic, the Neil Alexander Quartet, and Trio Shalva. The series follows two outstanding jazz concerts from this past year, The Nadav Snir-Zelniker Trio and The Pete Malinverni Trio.

The series will kick-off at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25th, with a special free performance by Conservatory faculty musician Rale Micic alongside Mimi Jones (bass) and Israel Bannerman (drums). In addition to being a dedicated educator, Micic is a CTA Records recording artist and has performed at prominent jazz clubs and music festivals throughout the United States and Europe. During his jazz series performance, Micic will be filming scenes for the music video for his song 'Serbology,' a track off his third album, 3.

Following shortly after Micic's exciting performance and music video shoot, Conservatory faculty pianist Hiroshi Yamazaki will perform a jazz benefit concert at the Conservatory on Thursday, March 31st at 7:00 p.m. with all proceeds benefiting the relief effort in Japan. The Osaka-born Yamazaki will be joined by fellow artists Bill Crow and Sean Smith (bass), Jan Leder (flute), Takeshi Ogura (guitar), Andrew Beals (alto sax), and Tony Jefferson (drums). Yamazaki has set a \$10,000 goal for the event; donations will be sent to charities assisting in Japan's recovery. To purchase tickets and/or donate, please visit www.japanbenefit.eventbrite.com

The Neil Alexander Quartet is the third group to perform in the jazz series and will take the stage at the Conservatory on Saturday, April 2nd at 8:00 p.m. A rock-infused jazz band founded by Neil Alexander, a Jazz pianist, synthesizer, and composer, the Neil Alexander Quartet also features renowned musician Nadav Zelniker (drums), Steve Frieder (saxophone), and Jim Cammack (acoustic/electric bass). Admission is \$15 for general admission; \$10 for seniors and MCW alumni, students, and faculty. To purchase tickets, please visit: <http://www.whenworldscollideeventbrite.com>

Next, jazz lovers are invited to join Trio Shalva on Saturday, April 16th, at 8:00 p.m. for a special performance and the launch of their new album, "Riding Alone." The record is the culmination of a year-long project by founding members Assaf Gleizner (piano/melodic), Koby Hayon (bass/guitar/oud) and Nadav Snir-Zelniker (drums/percussion). The result is a striking blend of jazz, world music, and Jewish folk music, exuding an aural representation of a Middle Eastern landscape. The cost is \$15 for general admission; \$10 for seniors and MCW alumni, students, and faculty. To purchase tickets, please visit: <http://trioshalva.eventbrite.com/>

The culmination of the series will be a Jazz Brunch held at the Shenorock Shore Club in Rye on Sunday, May 15, featuring distinguished Conservatory musicians Harold Jones (flute), Irena Portenko (piano), Alfred Renino (bass), and Nick Mangini (drums). The group will perform Claude Bolling's Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio. Shenorock Shore Club, 475 Stuyvesant Avenue, Milton Point, Rye, NY. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets start at \$75. This special event

will fund scholarships and classes at MCW. To purchase, please call the development department at 914-761-3900 or contact info@musiccd.org.

“Our core programs include such musical styles as jazz and rock. These jazz concerts are a way of highlighting our connection to the wonderful world of jazz music. We are also continuing to expand our performing series, including our current ‘Live on Central’ and ‘Kids on Central’ with this series of jazz events,” said Carol Shiffman, the Conservatory’s executive director.

The Music Conservatory of Westchester is located at 216 Central Avenue in White Plains, NY. Registration is always open and financial assistance is available for qualifying students. They can be reached at (914) 761-3900 or by visiting www.musicconservatory.org. Follow the Conservatory on Facebook (Westchester MusicConservatory) and Twitter (@MusicCW), or check their new blog (www.musicconservatoryblog.org) for the latest news and updates

About the Music Conservatory of Westchester

Founded in 1929, the Music Conservatory of Westchester (www.musicconservatory.org) is a non-profit community school of the arts, providing music, musical theatre education, and music therapy for people of all ages and abilities. The Conservatory’s 36,000-square-foot facility in White Plains offers a Recital Hall and 43 acoustically designed classrooms and teaching studios. Their comprehensive programs, which serve 3,700 students annually, include performing ensembles, musicianship classes, student performances, master classes, workshops, and more. All students receive free admission to the Conservatory’s annual series of faculty recitals and children’s concerts. This year, the Conservatory awarded \$110,000 in scholarship support and tuition assistance to more than 115 of its students. The Conservatory is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

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Neil Alexander



Rale Micic