



**The Toronto Jazz Orchestra presents
“O Canada”**

Celebrating Canadian Composition
Saturday, March 31, 2012, 3:30-6:30 pm
The Rex Hotel, 194 Queen Street West

For immediate release – Toronto, March 19, 2012: The **Toronto Jazz Orchestra (TJO)** is pleased to present “O Canada”, the ensemble’s annual celebration of Canadian big band composition. On March 31st at The Rex Hotel, the TJO will perform music by established and emerging Canadian composers including Phil Nimmons, Rob McConnell, Hugh Fraser, Andrew Jones, Chris Hunt, Allison Au and Josh Grossman. Also on the program are scores submitted to the TJO Call for Scores by Devin Roth, Lorenzo Castelli and Mike Downes.

“Canadian music is a part of every TJO performance, but for our annual ‘O Canada’ show we proudly feature *only* Canadian composition,” said Toronto Jazz Orchestra Artistic Director Josh Grossman. “‘O Canada’ is a great way to celebrate the outstanding music being created across the country.”

The repertoire for the afternoon will vary widely, ranging from music published and recorded years ago to music that has yet to have a public performance. Audience members will hear some familiar names, but will also be exposed to the exciting writing of a younger generation of Canadian composers.

The Call for Scores, now in its third year, invites original compositions from any Canadian composer, and this year saw submissions from British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. Composers whose works are chosen for performance are invited to attend a TJO rehearsal and will be given an archival recording of the March 31st performance. Through the Call for Scores, the TJO seeks to support the development of and build new relationships with Canadian big band composers.

The **Toronto Jazz Orchestra (TJO)** was formed in 1998 by Artistic Director and Conductor Josh Grossman and is made up of some of the top emerging jazz talent in Toronto. The TJO performs regularly at the Rex Hotel, has released three CDs and has collaborated with such artists as Kurt Elling, Seamus Blake, Ingrid Jensen and Geoffrey Keezer. Other special presentations have included the music of Phil Nimmons, Cuban Fire, the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra, the Stan Kenton Orchestra, Duke Ellington, Buddy Rich and, most recently, the Radiohead Jazz Project.

For more information on the March 31st performance please call (416) 899-5299, email thetjo@mnsi.net or visit www.thetjo.com.

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No cover; donations appreciated**