



**The Toronto Jazz Orchestra presents “Singers Unite”**

**with Sophia Perlman and Alex Samaras**

Monday November 5, 2012, 9:30 pm

The Rex Hotel, 194 Queen Street West

**For immediate release – Toronto, October 24, 2012:** The Toronto Jazz Orchestra (TJO) performs with two of Toronto’s most exciting jazz vocalists on Monday, November 5 when Sophia Perlman and Alex Samaras join the ensemble for “Singers Unite” at The Rex Hotel. The performance begins at 9:30 pm; cover charge is \$10.

“Alex and Sophia are two of my favourite local singers,” said Artistic Director Josh Grossman. “They are true musicians – they use their voices like instruments, mastering their written parts, interpreting the music in their own unique ways, and improvising solos. We’ve enjoyed working with each singer separately; we’re excited to bring them together in the same place at the same time.”

“Singers Unite” will feature pieces performed by the ensemble alone, pieces featuring each vocalist performing solo with the ensemble, and pieces featuring Alex and Sophia singing together in front of the band. Repertoire will range from the timeless arrangements of Quincy Jones and Billy May (as performed by Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, among others) to contemporary arrangements by Geoffrey Keezer and John Hollenbeck. Also featured will be arrangements by Toronto composers including Josh Grossman, Vickie Yang and Rebecca Pellett.

**Sophia Perlman’s** musical maturity and impressive ability as an improviser has made her a first call as a bandleader and frequent guest with many of Toronto’s top musicians and ensembles including Richard Underhill, The Bob Brough Quartet, Richard Whiteman, The Toronto Jazz Orchestra, The Darcy Hepner Jazz Orchestra, Ravi Nairpally, The Toronto Rhythm Initiative, and the late Jeff Healey. She is the featured vocalist with The Vipers, whose music has been widely played on JazzFM, and CBC, and is featured on bassist Brandi Disterheff’s JUNO Award-winning album *Debut*. In September, 2012, she released *Alive at Musidem*, an album with long-time collaborator Adrean Farrugia. Sophia is also much in demand as an educator, and teaches workshops and private lessons in Toronto. She is in her fourth year as director of the Canadian Children’s Opera Chorus (CCOC) OPERATION KIDS, introducing children to the magic of opera through both after-school and in-school programs, and conducts the CCOC’s Butterfly and Ruby Choruses, for children ages 3-8.

**Alex Samaras** is quickly becoming one of Canada's leading jazz and new music vocalists. Alex studied vocal performance in the jazz program at the University of Toronto and at the Banff Center's Creative Music Program, and spent time working in New York City with contemporary arts icon Meredith Monk and her vocal ensemble. In Toronto he performs with A Sondheim Jazz Project, and is a part of Bram Gielen's "Biggish Kids" which was a hit at the 2010 Summerworks Festival. Alex is the founder and artistic director of his own 8 voice group GREX which performs new and experimental vocal works and which was featured in the Music Gallery's Emergents series for up and coming artists. In 2011 he was selected for the Young Center Emerging Artists Program under the mentorship of Greg Oh. Starting in the fall of 2012 Alex will be teaching at the University of Toronto in the Jazz Department.



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, the Stan Kenton Orchestra, Duke Ellington, Buddy Rich, Gil Evans' *Miles Ahead*, the Radiohead Jazz Project and their recent tribute to the music of Thad Jones.

For more information on the November 5 presentation of "Singers Unite" please call (416) 899-5299, email [thetjo@mnsi.net](mailto:thetjo@mnsi.net), or visit [www.thetjo.com](http://www.thetjo.com).

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