

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jaffa Road, Canada's ambassadors of cutting-edge Diaspora Roots music, joins members of Juno-nominated Eccodek for the new series *Musical Melding*

Toronto, Ontario, December 14, 2009 – Koffler Centre of the Arts, together with **Small World Music Society**, proudly present ***Musical Melding***, a night of electrifying world music with **Jaffa Road** and members of **Eccodek**.

Musical Melding is an exciting new series featuring dynamic collaborations between eclectic musicians and Jaffa Road, Canada's ambassadors of cutting-edge Diaspora Roots music from the global crossroads. The premiere event in the series takes place on **Wednesday, January 27, 8 PM** at **Lula Lounge**, where Jaffa Road will be joined by members of Juno-nominated Eccodek.

With electrifying onstage chemistry, Jaffa Road combines original and ancient poetry sung in Hebrew, Spanish and English with pulsating dub grooves, belly dance rhythms, ambient electronic textures, and exhilarating improvisations. Challenging accepted notions of Jewish music while creating a new form that breaks cultural boundaries, they are part of a growing international movement for the revitalization of Diaspora Hebrew art and culture.

"Koffler Centre of the Arts is thrilled to partner with the critically acclaimed and eclectic Jaffa Road for this new cross-cultural music series," states Lori Starr, Executive Director, Koffler Centre of the Arts. "Jaffa Road's rich, inspiring and culturally-diverse sound will surely have audience members dancing the night away. This is a show you can't miss," adds Starr.

In this debut musical mash-up, Jaffa Road is joined by members of Juno-nominated Eccodek: **Andrew McPherson** and **Deliveryboy**. Weaving their cinematic instrumental style into this cultural mix, the sound-scientist producer with sample savvy Deliveryboy will dip into Eccodek's signature palette of dubwise global fusion, blending together ancient and modern sounds from the four corners of the globe.

Jaffa Road performs with members of **Eccodek** in ***Musical Melding*** on **Wednesday, January 27, 8 PM** (doors at 7 PM) at **Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas Street West, Toronto**. Tickets are \$12 (plus service charges) in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available online through **TicketWeb**, www.ticketweb.ca or by calling **1-888-222-6608**.

About Jaffa Road

Jaffa Road is an acclaimed Toronto-based world music group made up of some of Canada's most exciting and virtuosic interpreters of inter-cultural music. The group has created a unique sonic landscape that draws easily and organically from the worlds of sacred and secular Jewish songs, Classical Arabic and Indian music, modern jazz, rock, pop, and dub. In doing so, the group creates a union between acoustic and electronic, secular and sacred, ancient and modern. Collectively the band members are well known and sought after players nationally and internationally. They have performed and recorded with many highly regarded influential musicians in the Canadian and International pop, rock, jazz, and world music scenes.

Their debut CD, *Sunplace*, was released in early 2009 to a packed house at The Lula Lounge in Toronto and was recorded for CBC Radio 2 *Canada Live*. Tracks from the CD receive regular airplay on many local, regional and national programs on CBC Radio, and college radio. *Sunplace* earned the #1 spot on the CIUT world music chart. Jaffa Road's songs have won them runner up status in the *We are Listening Worlds of Music* contest and Grand Prize in the *John Lennon Song Writing* contest. The CD was produced by Chris Gartner with Aaron Lightstone.

Jaffa Road is comprised of founder and multi-instrumentalist/music therapist **Aaron Lightstone** (guitar, oud, saz, synthesizer), the ethereal vocals of multilingual lead singer **Aviva Chernick** (Levon Ichakhanian, Ernie Tollar, Tania Gill, Andrew Downing, Mitch Smolkin and Klezmer Buenos Aires), the visionary grooves of bassist **Chris Gartner** (Chantal Kreviazuk, members of both The Band and Barenaked Ladies, Mary Margaret O'Hara, Tasa),

the entrancing sounds of saxophonist/flutist **Sundar Viswanathan** (Wynton Marsalis, Al Martino, the Grammy-nominated Charles Tolliver Big Band, Bobby Vinton, Kiran Ahluwalia, Tasa) and the driving beat of percussionist **Jeff Wilson** (Maza Mezé, David Buchbinder, and multiple award winning Sultans of String).

For more information on Jaffa Road: <http://jaffaroadmusic.squarespace.com/>

About Eccodek

Eccodek is Canadian producer, remixer and multi-instrumentalist, **Andrew McPherson**. Eccodek is the tapestry of sound created when a producer, inspired singers and gifted multi-instrumentalists from the four corners of the globe find a common love for dub, funk, jazz and cinematic electronics.

Eccodek is the sound of cultures mingling, borders dissolving. It is the sound of the dub chamber, the goat skin drum and decaying vintage synths. It is the sound of Mali, Turkey, Fiji, Nigeria, India, Canada and beyond. Eccodek's earthy blend of global beats, soaring melodies and textured electronica has quickly established the project as a significant voice on the global fusion stage. Eccodek has appeared on the world renowned global chill series, *Buddha Bar*, and had the distinction of being the only Canadian contributor to National Geographic's *GeoRemix* project. They have released three albums: 2003's *More Africa in Us*, 2005's *Voices Have Eyes*, and 2008's *Shivaboom*. Dubbed by the Boston Globe "a sonic architect," Eccodek won two Canadian Independent Music Awards (2006 and 2008) for Favourite World Artist, received a Juno-nomination in 2009 for World Artist of the Year, and closed the 2009 Juno broadcast with a performance in collaboration with Great Big Sea and Hawksley Workman.

For more information on Eccodek: <http://www.eccodek.com/>

Musical Melding: Jaffa Road with Eccodek is produced by **Jaffa Road** and **Koffler Centre of the Arts**, and is presented together with **Small World Music Society**. Support has been generously provided by the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

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, 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 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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