

MATT HAIMOVITZ with UCCELLO

TRAILBLAZING CELLIST MATT HAIMOVITZ & HIS 8-PIECE CELLO ENSEMBLE CELEBRATE JAZZ IN NEW ARRANGEMENTS BY DAVID SANFORD

For Immediate Release, April 26, 2010 ... Renowned for his fascinating and far-reaching musical adventures and fearlessly virtuosic performances -- whether in a club or on one of the world's great stages -- cellist **Matt Haimovitz** harnesses his eight-piece ensemble of "cello warriors" ([San Jose Mercury News](#)), **Uccello**, for a new program of jazz classics in original arrangements by Rome Prize-winning composer **David Sanford**. In works by Ornette Coleman, Charles Mingus, John McLaughlin (Mahavishnu), Miles Davis, Billy Strayhorn and other jazz legends, the cellos wail, slide, and swing in an all-new big band sound.

The program will be heard on Saturday, **May 8** in **Hudson, NY** at Club Helsinki and **May 9** at 2pm at **Saratoga, NY's** Caffè Lena. Haimovitz and Uccello then come to **Western Massachusetts** for two benefit concerts in support of area hunger-relief organizations, The Food Bank and Rachel's Table. The concerts, sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, take place at Glenbrook Middle School in **Longmeadow** on **May 12** and at the Yiddish Book Center in **Amherst** on **May 13**. On **May 17**, they bring the program to **New York City** for a performance at the Kosciuszko Foundation for the New York Cello Society. The cellists return to Montreal at the end of the month to record the new program for release this fall on Oxingale Records.

Sanford's re-imagined takes on jazz classics draw on a wide variety of influences and surprise and stretch the expressive potential of the cello. Sanford and Haimovitz's collaboration includes the cellist's *Anthem* and *Odd Couple* projects but began with the groundbreaking *Buck the Concerto* series: "When I first heard David's big band music, I had to join in," says Haimovitz, "the result was *Scherzo Grosso*, a concerto for cello and 20-piece big-band. I gave David *carte blanche* to choose and arrange a big-band program for cello ensemble and his acute ear and innate sense of rhythmic electricity has given us a new sound and fresh take on some jazz classics. Many moments stand out, like the Bach-like four-part fugue in *Blues in A Minor* --for only 2 celli! -- or the hauntingly beautiful slow glissandos of *Blood Count*. John McLaughlin has been a friend for years and I am particularly thrilled to have two high-energy adaptations of his classics, *Open Country Joy* and *Meeting of the Spirits*." Sanford is also writing an original piece for the group.

The program will include: *Blues in A minor* (1973) from the Modern Jazz Quartet and John Lewis, which combines jazz and classical elements in an elegant and humorous two-celli version; Mahavishnu Orchestra's *Open Country Joy* (1973), retaining much of the original parts; *W.R.U.* (1961) by Ornette Coleman, replacing the original quartet with four celli but closer in intent to John Zorn's punk/thrash 1988 version; George Gershwin's *Liza* (original, 1929) takes musical influences from Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grappelli and Art Tatum; *Blood Count* (1967), written for the Duke Ellington orchestra from Billy Strayhorn's hospital bed, is introduced by Gordon Getty's 1986 setting of Emily Dickinson's similarly funereal "There came a wind like a bugle"; Charles Mingus' *Haitian Fight Song* (1957), drawn from the 1963 version for a larger ensemble; plus Miles Davis' 1948 bebop composition *Half Nelson*, re-cast as in the style of his 1949 debut as a leader in the *Birth of the Cool* sessions.

MATT HAIMOVITZ is acclaimed for both his tremendous artistry and as a musical visionary – pushing the boundaries of classical music performance, championing new music and initiating groundbreaking collaborations. From his debut at the age of 13, as soloist with Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic and his first recording with James Levine and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, for Deutsche Grammophon, at age 17, Haimovitz has gone on to perform on the world’s most esteemed stages. Haimovitz made his Carnegie Hall debut when he substituted for his teacher, the legendary Leonard Rose, in Schubert’s String Quintet in C, alongside Isaac Stern, Shlomo Mintz, Pinchas Zukerman and Mstislav Rostropovich. In 2000, Haimovitz made waves with his Bach “Listening-Room” Tour, for which, to great acclaim, Haimovitz took Bach’s beloved cello suites out of the concert hall and into clubs across the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. Haimovitz’s 50-state Anthem tour in 2003 celebrated living American composers, and featured his arrangement of Jimi Hendrix’s “Star-Spangled Banner.” Haimovitz was the first classical artist to play at New York’s infamous CBGB club, in a performance filmed by ABC News “Nightline UpClose.” Haimovitz’s recording career encompasses more than 20 years of award-winning work on Deutsche Grammophon and his own Oxingale Records, the independent label he founded with composer/producer Luna Pearl Woolf.

Haimovitz will perform at the world premiere of the documentary film *Bach & Friends* (in which he is featured) on May 16 at **Symphony Space's** Peter Jay Sharp Theatre. Additional upcoming **New York City** performances include a concert with soprano Lisa Delan at **Lincoln Center's** Rose Theater (May 21) and *Vivaldi's Venice*, with the Little Orchestra of New York at Carnegie Hall's **Zankel Hall** (June 16). www.matthaimovitz.com

Matt Haimovitz’s all-cello ensemble, **UCCELLO**, features the next generation of cellists from the Schulich School of Music at McGill University, where Haimovitz is Professor of Cello. Uccello has performed on Boston’s Celebrity Series, New York’s Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Jazz at Lincoln Center, as well as clubs such as Arlington’s Iota, Seattle’s Tractor Tavern, and Eugene’s Sam Bond’s Garage. Uccello has joined Haimovitz on two Oxingale recordings, *Goulash* and *VinylCello*; the first, a classical best seller, appeared on the Billboard charts. Uccello has received rave reviews from The New York Times, Washington Post and Boston Globe.

Pittsburgh-born composer **DAVID SANFORD**’s works have been performed by the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra under Kent Nagano, the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra led by Marin Alsop, the Chicago Symphony Chamber Players, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the Chamber Society of Lincoln Center, jazz musicians such as Bob Mintzer, George Garzone, Pheeroan ak-Laff, and the Corvini/Iodice Roma Jazz Ensemble, among numerous others. Honors include awards and fellowships from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Guggenheim Foundation, BMI, ASCAP, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and the Rome Prize. He received a Ph.D. from Princeton University. He is the leader and founder of the Pittsburgh Collective and Associate Professor of Music at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA.

Sat, May 8 | 9pm | Club Helsinki | Hudson, NY | www.helsinkihudson.com

Sun, May 9 | 2pm | Caffè Lena | Saratoga, NY | www.caffelena.org

BENEFIT CONCERTS IN SUPPORT OF THE FOOD BANK OF WESTERN MASS & RACHEL'S TABLE

Wed, May 12 | 7pm | Glenbrook Middle School | Longmeadow, MA

Thurs, May 13 | 7:30pm | Yiddish Book Center | Amherst, MA | www.foodbankwma.org

Mon, May 17 | 7:30pm | Kosciuszko Foundation | www.violoncellosociety.org

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