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EMMANUEL VUKOVICH AND JOHN MCDOWELL IN CONCERT:

"Music for Farms"

AN INTIMATE EVENING OF MUSIC AT TORONTO'S HELICONIAN CLUB ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2009.

As a tie-in to the Toronto International Film Festival's premiere of documentary film *Stolen*, this unique concert featuring musicians, composers, and farmers John McDowell (piano and African drums), and Emmanuel Vukovich (violin and African drums) will be held at Toronto's Heliconian Club, 35 Hazelton Avenue, on Friday, September 18 at 8pm.

McDowell is best known as composer of the score to Oscar winning documentary *Born Into Brothels* and has toured with platinum selling rock/world music band Rusted Root and with singer Krishna Das. His world music band Mamma Tongue has performed at venues and festivals internationally. Juilliard and McGill trained Vukovich is the recipient of Canada's first Golden Violin Award, as well as the Canada Council for the Arts Orford String Quartet Scholarship. As a member of the former Lloyd Carr-Harris String Quartet, which won the prestigious Fischhoff Competition, he has toured throughout North America and Europe. **Both musicians have collaborated on the sound track to the film *Stolen* which is premiering at this year's TIFF.**

The duo will weave an evening of music **inspired by an exploration of connecting opposites** - such as in their original work based on Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzifal legend, the meeting of Eastern and Western classical music in their own transcription of Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin's Swara Kakali, in their personal backgrounds of jazz and classical music, and finally in their own lives of practicing music and farming side by side.

Program will include:

-Parzifal by Emmanuel Vukovich and John McDowell

-Swara Kakali by Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuin - arranged by Vukovich/McDowell

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-Beethoven Sonata, Op. 8, second movement

-Argentinian Tango pieces - arranged by McDowell/Vukovich

-F Major by John McDowell

-Black Orpheus – arranged by McDowell/Vukovich

-Selections from Bach's Solo Violin Sonatas and Partitas

-Selections from film scores by John McDowell

The performers will also share some of their experience as farmers and present an excerpt from a film about music and farming entitled *Bach in a Barn*. Violinist Vukovich states “Originally, music, dance, and artistic culture in general were strongly inter-connected to, and a part of, our human civilization’s relationship to nature. This was expressed in traditional agrarian society through rituals in rhythm with the seasons - such as harvest festivals. As people have migrated more and more to large urban centres, artistic cultural life has tended to separate from agricultural life. We go to concerts in the city, and we get our food from farms in the country. This has often created a void and famine of culture and arts in rural farming communities, and a corresponding disconnect/abstraction in the arts.” To this end, the proceeds from this event will go towards the creation of a foundation which works to connect world-class music-making and artistic culture with local sustainable agriculture and farming communities.

Tickets are \$15 (students/seniors) and \$20 (adult) in advance at www.johnmcdowell.net, and \$20 (students/seniors) and \$25 (adults) at the door. For more information, call 416 922 3618 or 773 484 8811.

WEBSITES: www.johnmcdowell.net, www.heliconianclub.org

Release date: August 28, 2009 / END