



ESPERANZA SPALDING

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Lineup

Esperanza Spalding (*double bass & lead vocal*)

Leo Genovese (*piano*)

Richard Barshay (*drums*)

Entcho Todorov (*violin*)

Dave Eggar (*cello*)

Hiroko Taguchi (*viola*)

Leala Cyr (*backing vocals*)

BAND BIOS:

LEO GENOVESE Piano, Rhodes and Melodica

Leonardo Genovese was born in Venado Tuerto, Argentina in 1979.

After some years of studying classical piano at the National University of Rosario as well as private lessons in contemporary music, he moved to Boston in 2001. He started his career at Berklee College of Music where he studied with Danilo Perez, Joanne Brackeen and Frank Carlberg, among others.

Leo graduated as a Professional Music Major in 2003 and has been constantly performing and recording with talented musicians such as Hal Crook, Darren Barrett, George Garzone, Francisco Mela, Joe Lovano, Bob Gullotti, Phil Grenadier, Dave Santoro, Chris Cheek and Ben Monder.

In 2004, he released his first solo album entitled Haikus II signed by Spanish label Fresh Sound Records. Leo has his own project "Leo Genovese and the Chromatic Gauchos" which will be recording a new album in earlier 2007.

He also performs regularly with the Esperanza Spalding Group, the Mike Tucker Quartet, Planet Safety (w/Bob Gullotti and Dave Zinno) and Hal Crook every Tuesday at AS220 in Providence.

RICHARD BARSHAY Drums

Percussionist **Richie Barshay**, noted for his work with the Herbie Hancock Quartet, is regarded as "a player to watch" by JazzTimes magazine. On tour and on recordings, his eclectic resume so far includes Hancock, Chick Corea, Natalie Merchant, Lee Konitz, The Klezmatics, Fred Hersch, Kenny Werner, David Krakauer, Fred Wesley, Claudia Acuña and Pete Seager among others. In 2004 he was named an American Musical Envoy by the U.S. State Department for outreach tours in Asia, South America, and Europe. Now based in New York City, Richie began playing Jazz and Afro-Caribbean music during his youth and has expanded his focus to Indian rhythmic concepts and tabla, inspiring his 2007 recording debut *Homework* on Ayva Records. "*Homework* introduces a major rhythm voice on the rise" says Downbeat magazine, and The Guardian (UK) praises "the arrival of a major innovator who also knows how to have fun."

ENTCHO TODOROV Violin

Bulgarian violinist Entcho Todorov is a classically trained musician currently touring with soul legend Diana Ross. He also performs Balkan folk music with virtuoso accordionist Ivan Milev.

Entcho has toured with Hall & Oates and Sheryl Crow, and has appeared on stage with Mary J. Blige, Elton John, Andrea Bocelli, Rod Stewart, Josh Groban, among others.

He has recorded for the soundtracks of the Oscar-winning movie *Precious* and Liev Schreiber's directorial debut *Everything Is Illuminated*. Entcho has played on albums for Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings, Antibalas, Kelly Clarkson, Melissa Newman, among others.

On Broadway, Entcho was resident violinist for *Shrek: The Musical*, *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (as the fiddler on stage), and *The Immigrant: A New American Musical*.

Entcho is a master performer of Balkan folk music, playing throughout the U.S. with Ivan Milev Band and on the band's record *The Flight of Krali Marco*.

DAVID EGGAR Cello

A virtuoso of many styles, Dave Eggar debuted in Carnegie Hall at 15 as the youngest winner in the history of the Artists International competition. He has appeared throughout the world as a classical soloist, including concerto appearances at Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, London's Barbican Center, the Paris Opera, and the Hollywood Bowl. Eggar has performed and recorded with countless artists, including the Who, Michael Brecker, Dave Sanborn, Ornette Coleman, Ruggiero Ricci, Roberta Flack, Phil Ramone, Abbey Lincoln, Luciano, Sly and Robbie, Dianne Reeves, Manhattan Transfer, Carly Simon, Sinéad O'Connor, Kathleen Battle, Bebel Gilberto, Chris Potter, Gil Goldstein, Eugenia Zuckerman, Lyfe Jennings and Corinne Bailey Rae. Dave was also a founding member of the FLUX quartet, and has premiered over 100 works of contemporary music including pieces by Frank Zappa, Charles Ives, John Cage, Conlon Nancarrow, Elliott Sharp, Ornette Coleman, John Pattitucci, Oliver Lake and, Morton Feldman, Sir Harrison Birtwhistle and Augusta Read Thomas.

HIROKO TAGUCHI Viola

Hiroko Taguchi has performed on stage since the age of four. She has toured with the Dixie Chicks, Jimmy Cobb Quintet and the East Village Opera Company. She also appeared live on stage with such artists as Wynton Marsalis, Josh Groban, Donna Summer, Ray Lamontagne, Billy Joel and many others. She has performed on Broadway musicals *Beauty and the Beast*, *Wicked*, *Spring Awakening*, *Shrek*, *Westside Story*, *Next to Normal*, *Ragtime*. She is currently in *The Addams Family*.

LEALA CYR Backing Vocalist

Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Leala Cyr has proven herself to be a true diamond in the rough. This small-town girl began her concentration on the trumpet at an early age, and soon discovered her gift for music. Already excelling in classical trumpet, Cyr then tried her hand in the jazz band. A newfound love, Leala realized her true passion for jazz singing. Soon after, Cyr became the band's vocalist and eventually was featured as a trumpet and vocal soloist at the prestigious *Essentially Ellington Competition* at the Lincoln Center in New York. Deciding then to study music, Cyr entered the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay where she was later voted "*Best Jazz Vocalist*" in the college division of *Downbeat* magazine's Student Music Awards (2005). It wasn't long before Leala received the *World Tour Scholarship* from the Berklee College of Music and finished her studies there. Since then, Leala has shared the stage with greats such as Esperanza Spalding, Guinga, Mark Walker, Chuck Loeb, Filo Machado, and Greg Hopkins.