

Art & Culture Maven



My blog talks about music from all over the world along with performing & visual arts, film, arts news, events and more - focusing on the Toronto and New York areas.

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Wednesday, October 26, 2011

CD Release: Sultans of String & Move + North American Tour

From a media release:

Sultans of String MOVE CD Release!

featuring special guests Ernie Tollar, Jordan Klapman, Pabloski Rosales, The Cuban Trumpet Ensemble, and more!

Saturday, October 29, 8pm (doors: 7pm)

Trinity St Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor St West, Toronto

[Direct link to buy tix](#)

[Toronto ON] Raucous roots, genre bending string super-group, Sultans of String, kick off their Canadian & US CD release tour in Toronto with a spicy performance at Trinity St.

Paul's Centre on Saturday, October 29th!

(selected tour schedule below, including NY's Birdland and Boston's Scullers!).

The release of MOVE, the band's third album, can only be thought of as a perfect hat-trick. These multiple award winning and JUNO-nominated string wizards present – once again – an exhilarating celebration of world music styles and influences that embrace Gypsy Jazz, Cuban rhythms, Arabic folk, Spanish Flamenco and classical music in an incomparable and blinding flurry of musicianship. It's as if Chris McKhool and

Co. have entered a cross-cultural time machine. How else could these talented individuals have absorbed so many generations' worth of musical influences in such a short time?

Under the lead of McKhool's virtuosic 4 and 6-string violin attack, guitarists Kevin Laliberté



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(Jesse Cook, guested on tour with The Chieftains) and Eddie Paton (Robert Michaels) trade guitar effects while Drew Birston's (Chantal Kreviazuk) bass holds down the rhythm (taking a few choice leads himself) with Rosendo "Chendy" Leon (Alex Cuba, Parachute Club) supplying the lion's share of the band's distinctive percussion. Guests like Ernie Tollar (flute), Kevin Turcotte and Alexander Brown (trumpets), Ken Whiteley (mandolin, piano, organ), Amanda Martinez and Dala (vocal support) help round out the eclectic mix, ripe with a blend of new to old, spirited to downright possessed.



The travelogue begins with "Andalucia", establishing its strong claim to its location in southern Spain before changing gears as violin replaces its flamenco sounds with a sharp turn towards Northern Africa, complete with funky bass. Likewise, "Dos Guitarras" begins flamenco-like before McKhool's violin gives way to dueling guitars in a composition that seems broken into 4 parts, like a play. The beautiful "Montréal" begins gently, like the whispering of lovers before it goes upbeat, adding horns and energy while the hard left turn of "Emerald Swing" with its upbeat, swinging bluegrass feel – and

distinctive acoustic bass solo – deftly demonstrate the wide-reaching range of this band.

There's no denying that creativity collides with pure passion across each of these dozen tracks and, just when you think you might be figuring them out, they'll throw in a left-field cover to hide their tracks. Neil Young's "Heart of Gold" might be the last song you'd expect from the Sultans, yet armed with Dala's lush backdrop, McKhool and the Gang lay waste to expectations, enticing Neil's mellow country out of the shade and into the sunshine. Full of surprises, the Sultans of String continue along on their nomadic adventure, covering more ground than can instantly be digested for most.

The behind-the-scenes MOVE masters for this wild ride are sound engineers Jeremy Darby (Live Aid, U2, Pink Floyd, Prince) and George Seara- Manic Sound (Jesse Cook, Michael Jackson, Sting). Mastered at legendary Sterling Sound in NYC.

Selected upcoming dates:

- Oct 29 - Trinity St. Paul's Centre, Toronto ON
- Nov 2 - House of Jazz, Montreal QC
- Nov 3 - Scullers Jazz Club, Boston, MA
- Nov 4 - Nelson Odeon, Cazenovia NY
- Nov 5 - Oswego Music Hall, Oswego, NY
- Nov 6 - Caffe Lena, Saratoga Springs, NY
- Nov 7 - SiriusXM Live Performance, Washington DC
- Nov 8 - The Living Room, New York, NY
- Nov 9 - Turning Point, Piermont, NY
- Nov 10- Birdland Jazz Club, New York, NY

<http://www.sultansofstring.com>/Check their website for other dates & locations

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Posted by Anya Wassenberg at 11:27 PM 



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Anya Wassenberg

I'm a longtime freelance writer, blogger and writing instructor and almost as longtime fine art model.

Occasionally, I get involved with acting and performance projects too.

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