



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2007

**CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS AND THE EARSHOT JAZZ FESTIVAL WELCOME
THE ANAT COHEN QUARTET AND JOHN HOLLENBECK'S REFUGE TRIO**

SEATTLE, WA – The Cornish Music Series and Earshot Jazz have joined forces to present two spectacular artists for this year's Earshot Jazz Festival. The first concert, on October 25, will feature Israeli saxophonist/clarinetist Anat Cohen and her quartet, with local pianist Dawn Clement's Trio opening. The second concert, on October 26, will feature the boundary-bashing percussionist John Hollenbeck and his Refuge Trio. A complete description of each project is listed below. Please note that free parking is available for all Cornish Music Series events.

Cornish Music Series and the Earshot Jazz Festival present

Anat Cohen Quartet

Dawn Clement Trio opening

Thursday, October 25, 8 pm

PONCHO Concert Hall

710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Tickets: \$18 general admission, available through Earshot Jazz by calling 206.547.9787 or visiting www.earshot.org

On Stage with John Hollenbeck's Refuge Trio

Friday, October 26, 2 pm

PONCHO Concert Hall

710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Workshop, free and open to the public

Cornish Music Series and the Earshot Jazz Festival present

John Hollenbeck's Refuge Trio

Friday, October 26, 8pm

PONCHO Concert Hall

710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Tickets: \$18 general admission, available through Earshot Jazz by calling 206.547.9787 or visiting www.earshot.org

BIOGRAPHIES

Anat Cohen

Idiomatically conversant with modern and traditional jazz, classical music, Brazilian choro, Argentine tango, and an expansive timeline of Afro-Cuban styles, **Anat Cohen** has established herself as one of the primary voices of her generation on both the tenor saxophone and clarinet since arriving in New York in 1998.

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Born in Tel Aviv, Israel, Anat grew up with musical siblings; her older brother, Yuval, is himself a saxophonist of note, and her younger brother, Avishai, is one of New York's busiest trumpeters. She began clarinet studies at age 12 and played jazz on clarinet for the first time in her Jaffa conservatory's Dixieland band. At 16 she joined the school's big band and learned to play the tenor saxophone. The same year, Anat entered the prestigious "Thelma Yelin" High School for the Arts, where she majored in jazz. After graduation, she discharged her mandatory Israeli military service duty from 1993-95, playing tenor saxophone in the Israeli Air Force band. In 1996, Anat headed to Boston to matriculate at Berklee College of Music and was inspired to explore world music, starting with the music of South America, in detail.

During her Berklee years, Anat visited New York during breaks between semesters, making a beeline for Smalls to soak up the hybrid of grooves, world music and mainstream jazz that people like Jason Lindner and Omer Avital—a high school bandmate of her older brother—were then evolving. Back in Boston, she played tenor saxophone in a variety of musical contexts; Afro-Cuban music with Ecuadorian bassist Alex Alvear in a group called Mango Blue, Argentinean and original music with pianist Pablo Ablanedo, and klezmer music at weddings. Called by Brazilian bassist Leonardo Cioglia for Brazilian Popular Music gigs, Anat learned selections from the songbooks of Ivan Lins, Milton Nascimento, and Toninho Horta, and studied Brazilian percussion to master the associated rhythms. The group evolved into an instrumental quartet that gigged weekly. After Cioglia left for New York, jobs with Fernando Brandao, a Brazilian flutist, provided Anat with more opportunities to play Brazilian music and exposed her to choro, a particularly challenging Brazilian musical genre, for the first time. Once ensconced in New York, Anat quickly found work in various Brazilian ensembles, including a gig with the high-octane pop band Brazoooca at the Café Wha in Greenwich Village. "One night there I met Pedro Ramos," she recalls, referring to the tenor guitarist and cavaquinho player who had recently organized the Choro Ensemble.

In addition to The Choro Ensemble, Anat plays with New York Samba Jazz, a modernist quintet led by Brazilian drum master Duduka Da Fonseca, and with her brothers as "The Three Cohens". She has long held the lead tenor saxophone chair in Sherrie Maricle's Diva Jazz Orchestra, the top-shelf all-woman big band, with which she has toured the world. Since 2004, she has played the music of Louis Armstrong with David Ostwald's "Gully Low Jazz Band". She has explored the music of Bix Beiderbecke, Jelly Roll Morton, Sidney Bechet and their Pan-American contemporaries. Anat currently leads a young quartet with guitarist Gilad Hekselman, bassist Eduardo Perez, and drummer Ferenc Nemeth. Her playing and studying of a wide range of musical styles has culminated in her finding her own distinctive musical voice

Dawn Clement Trio

Opening the concert on the 25th is Seattle-based pianist and composer Dawn Clement, with Geoff Harper, bass, and D'vonne Lewis, drums. Along with teaching at Cornish College of the Arts, Dawn is also very active in the NYC scene, working on collaborations with Jane Ira Bloom, Julian Priester, and Jon Solo.

John Hollenbeck's Refuge Trio with Theo Bleckmann and Gary Versace

Refuge Trio takes its name from the Joni Mitchell song "Refuge of the Roads". The collaborative trio was formed to play at the 2002 Wall-to-Wall Joni Mitchell Marathon Concert at Symphony Space in NYC. Since then, they have continued to explore delicate and playful music with mystery and exuberance. Their unique voices also play an essential role in the ensembles of Laurie Anderson, Meredith Monk, Bob Brookmeyer, John Scofield and Maria Schneider. As the Refuge trio, they fashion a transformative experience for the audience with their music and spirit.

Genre -bending, -skipping and -skirting, German -born vocalist/composer **Theo Bleckmann** THEO BLECKMANN, has performed worldwide from Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall to the Sydney Opera House with artists like Laurie Anderson, Anthony Braxton, Steve Coleman, Dave Douglas, John Hollenbeck, Sheila Jordan, Ben Monder, Meredith Monk, Michael Tilson Thomas, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Bang On A Can All-stars and lent his voice to Bobby McFerrin's new recording project .

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The New Yorker called him a “local cult favorite”, the New York Times “excellent” and according to OUT Magazine Bleckmann is “a singer who has only recently fallen to earth. “ Bleckmann’s recording “origami” garnered great critical praise including 4 +1/2 stars (out of 5) from Downbeat Magazine. His newest recording, “Las Vegas Rhapsody” has just been released on Winter&Winter to great critical acclaim. His voice can be heard on over 20 recordings found on ECM, CRI, Label Bleu, Polygram, Songlines, Traumton and Winter &Winter.

John Hollenbeck has created and continues to cultivate a body of work that integrates a wealth of experience and talent into a style that is as accessible as it is advanced. John focuses extensively on composing for and leading the critically acclaimed Claudia Quintet and his Grammy-Nominated Large Ensemble. The recipient of a B.M. in Percussion (1990) and a M.M. in Jazz Composition (1991) from the Eastman School of Music, Hollenbeck has received numerous awards and commissions. John received nominations in the following categories in the Down Beat Magazine's Critics Poll: Rising Star Composer (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006); Rising Star Jazz Artist (2006); Rising Star Arranger (2006); Rising Star Big Band (2006); and with his Claudia Quintet: Rising Star Jazz Group (2006). His most recent works have been commissioned by Bang On A Can, Ethos Percussion Group, and Studio Percussion (Graz, AUSTRIA). He is happily married to Katharine Schroeder.

Since basing himself in New York City in June of 2002, pianist, organist, and accordionist **Gary Versace** has quickly become one of the busiest and most versatile musicians on the scene, often featured in bands led by musicians such as John Scofield, John Abercrombie, Lee Konitz, Maria Schneider, Matt Wilson, Andy LaVerne, Brad Shepik, Ingrid Jensen, and many others. Versace was voted a “rising star” on the Hammond organ in the 2005 and 2004 Downbeat critics polls, and was the subject of a feature article in the July 2004 issue of Keyboard magazine..” Over the past five years, Versace has recorded three albums as a leader on the SteepleChase label, has appeared as a sideman on over 30 recordings for a variety of labels, and was a featured soloist on Maria Schneider’s Grammy-winning recording, “Concert in the Garden.” As a pianist, Versace performed in a two-piano recital with Marian McPartland, and in April of 1999 appeared on her acclaimed National Public Radio program, "Piano Jazz."

To request images or receive additional information on the Cornish College of the Arts Fall Events Calendar, please contact Meike Kaan or Beth Fleenor (see info above) or visit www.cornish.edu.

About Cornish College of the Arts

Cornish College of the Arts, founded by Nellie Cornish in 1914, provides aspiring artists with the educational opportunities to become professionals in their fields. The College offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Art, Dance, Design, Performance Production and Theater, and a Bachelor of Music degree. It is one of three private colleges in the United States focusing on both the performing and visual arts, and the only college of its kind in the Northwest. The College is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

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