



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

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### **Holly Comes Home to Headline 2008 TD Canada Trust Atlantic Jazz Festival International Renowned Musicians Infuse Festival with Many Flavors**

**Halifax NS** - From home town favorite *Holly Cole* to international marquee entertainers like bebop jazz legend **Sheila Jordan**, southern soul come Chicago blues man **Syl Johnson** and New York based **Pyeng Threadgill**, the 22nd edition of the TD Canada Trust Atlantic Jazz Festival promises festival-goers a banquet of fusion music this July 11-19.

A ten-piece Argentinean tango jazz sensation, **Orquesta Tipica Imperial**, will kick off the stellar opening of the festival at the Main Stage Tent gaining momentum with a smokin' blues performance from **Syl Johnson**, whose famous tune "*Take Me to the River*" inspired a sound made famous by Al Green and was later covered by several other diverse and high profile artists. Capping off opening weekend on Sunday night in the tent with Halifax jazz heroine, **Holly Cole**, hot on the heels of her latest release, self-titled *Holly Cole*.

At a press conference launch for the Festival, **Artistic Director, Adam Fine** described the artist line-up as, "featuring enchanted music from all corners of the earth, this festival has gained a reputation amongst musicians for being amongst the most fun places to play anywhere. That's why, although we're certainly not the biggest fish in the sea, we still get the pick of the litter" Adding that, "the festival really brings the world to Halifax."

Those looking for blow out world beat block parties to dance the night away under the stars or the big top will not be disappointed with this year's **Main Stage Series**. The spirit of Django Reinhardt is played three ways this year, during a double-billed concert headlined by Newfoundland native, **Duane Andrews** and Icelandic jazz guitarist **Bjorn Thoroddsen**. Opening for the two talented guitarist are Halifax's own hot club heros, **Gypsophilia**.

UK pianist, **John Taylor**, of the band Azimuth, opens the **Commons Room Series**, Saturday July 12 with a solo piano concert, setting the stage for one of the strongest cabaret line ups ever for the Commons Room. Juno awarding winning pianist **Hilario Duran** headlines one night with his indelible brand of Cuban jazz. Following, another Cuban pianist, **David Virelles** - a young protégé of Jane Bunnett, who critics call 'the marvel' - brings his quintet of spirited young Latin jazz mavericks back to Halifax, this time in a headlining spot. Rare is it that each in the five top is a virtuoso in his own right; the band features saxophonist **Luis Denis** and percussionist **Louiz Orbegoso**. Richer than honey toned baritone, **Erin Costelo**, flexes her jazz roots with ERA, featuring Hot Toddy bassist Tom Easley, multi National Jazz Award winning pianist Dave Restivo and versatile drummer Mark Grant-Adam in a collaborative jazz and pop rally.

**Executive Director, Sarah Watling** commented on the line-up saying it, "reflects the evolutionary and organic culture of jazz music. This year's program has got some real gems too. I'm thrilled we are presenting someone as incredible as **Sheila Jordan**... this is going to be a real treat for jazz purists and bebop fans. Sheila does so much more than sing, regardless of whether it's a scat or a ballad. Now imagine her in a warmly lit Cathedral with her bassist and about 299 other people in rapt. I get really excited about this stuff."

Watling, who was officially announced as executive director at the press conference, also credited title sponsor, TD Canada Trust, government partners Canadian Heritage and the city of Halifax for the ongoing success of the festival, not to mention the dedication from festival suppliers. “The foresight of our partners and the community is the reason this festival has become a mainstay on regional event calendars and we look forward to celebrating our silver anniversary with them in 2011. It is exciting to imagine what that is going to look and feel like.”

Dr. Christopher Elson, newly re-instated President of JazzEast Rising Association was out of the country for the official launch, however he passed on his congratulations to the association in a statement on this years’ programme, “this year’s festival shows the exciting range of styles and artists that has made our event one of the country’s most highly regarded jazz festivals and one of the region’s signature summer cultural events.”

**Early Bird Tickets On Sale Now for Select Marquee Artists - Full Program On Sale and Festival Passes available June 12 - Limited early bird prices available**

*For complete Lineups, artist and venue details, plus festival box office information and to purchase tickets, visit the newly designed [www.jazzeast.com](http://www.jazzeast.com)*

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For further information, artist photos, bios and multimedia, [www.jazzeast.com](http://www.jazzeast.com)  
Downloadable press kits and media accreditation online at [www.jazzeast.com](http://www.jazzeast.com)

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