



Music

Highlights . Reviews
International

Interview with Jazz
stars Marek Balata, John
Alcorn, Margaret Maye

Come a Little Closer...

Epilepsy
Benefit JAZZ Concert

July 7 at
Isabel Bader Theatre

Photography by James Dawson

TORONTO EXCLUSIVE:

Come a Little Closer Jazz
Concert in Support of Epilepsy
Research was a huge success,
how much of a challenge was it
to stage this huge undertaking?

MARGARET MAYE:

I worked on this project for about a
year, 8 month's non stop, only
stopping for a few hours each
night to sleep. I was angry with
myself that I had to rest and let
precious time pass by, for I felt that
there was so little time left and so
much to do.





TORONTO EXCLUSIVE

You have toured in the USA and played Toronto in previous years, exposing new audiences to your original improvised jazz style that has elements of folkloric roots from your native town Krakow. Have you ever thought that your music may not be accepted outside Eastern Europe.

MAREK BALATA

I don't think I have, I try to give to a new audience something special and that is a unique base of my heritage. Jazz is constantly growing through the influence and inspiration from others and I hope that I am also an important part of that.

TORONTO EXCLUSIVE

Your stage show is a must see. What more can audiences expect to see at your performances?

MAREK BALATA

Every concert is a new challenge for me not only on musically but, I can offer a multimedia performance with a mixture of singing, dancing and

video movie all at the same time.

Soon after I return to Poland I will sing at the European Jazz Festival in Krakow with the greatest European jazz musicians. I am also going on tour in Europe with Austrian group SONGLINES and American/Holland group KLEZMOKUM to promote our new CDs. Of course I would like to come again and play with my Canadian friends for the fantastic Toronto audience.

www.balata.art.pl

John Alcorn

www.johnalcorn.com

TORONTO EXCLUSIVE

You are known to perform at high profile events such as the Toronto Film Festival, the Genie Awards, the Juno and Gemini awards just to name a few. How did you find performing in front of a sold out mainly Polish audience for the benefit of Epilepsy Research?

I've always found the Polish people at once warm, generous and intelligent – with a great love and passion for the creative arts. To sing for the audience at this concert, with their seemingly boundless energy, encouragement and enthusiasm, was an absolute pleasure.

TORONTO EXCLUSIVE

You've received praise from critics and fans alike for your music which is currently getting radio airplay around the world, what would you say the magic ingredient is?



I don't know if there's much "magic" involved. I can tell you that I choose my repertoire very carefully, searching for songs that have some particular meaning for me – songs through which I can attempt to tell my story, my truth. In performance, I always strive to communicate these thoughts and feelings to the audience, in hopes that they might in turn gain some new insight, relive some long lost memory, or revisit a place of deep emotion.

TORONTO EXCLUSIVE
You have gained numerous awards and recognitions including the 2004 National Jazz Awards for Best Jazz Vocals. Doing any film soon?

I have already done some work in film and television in various capacities, such as actor, singer, musician and composer. It's always an interesting process, although I believe my first love will always be singing before a live audience!



MUSIC EDUCATION

Behind the Voice



The Royans School Vocal Science™ Program is a unique and revolutionary method which

produces rapid results for both singers and speakers. Master Vocal Coach/In-Studio Vocal Producer/

Voice Repair Specialist Diana Yampolsky has been working with beginners and professionals, including some of the biggest names in the Canadian Music Industry, for the last 27 years. Vocal Science is a holistic and scientific approach to voice mechan-

ics that enables all singers to reach their full potential in an extremely short period of time. Her most recent successes include Lukas Rossi, who won the CBS TV Show Rockstar: Supernova, and Alex Norman, whose band IIIScarlett recently signed with Sony-BMG. Her audacious claim to fame is Beginner to Pro Singer in 10 hours or less guaranteed!

Moreover, in the last several years Ms. Yampolsky has been offering a special 4 to 5 day Vocal Science Immersion course for people from other cities, provinces and countries. Recently, she has started to offer the same course for people in Toronto and it's suburbs. In addition to being a World renowned Master Vocal Coach, Ms. Yampolsky also offers a unique Non-Surgical Approach to Voice Repair for people that have damaged their voice and who are looking for an alternative to an invasive operation. She also provides care for people with post-surgical trauma.

Ms Yampolsky has been a contributor to Canadian Musician magazine for over 17 years. In 2001 Diana released her first book, Vocal Science – Flight to the Universe (pub. by Mayfair Music Publications), an Inspirational, Revolutionary and Highly Educational Guide for Singers. She has been a featured speaker at prominent Music Conferences and seminars and has been featured in major publications, such as the Toronto Star, National Post and many others, as well as profiled on numerous radio and television stations. Some time ago, Diana established a newly found sister company to the Royans School, Royans Universe Records.

She is also the President of her management company, 4 a.m. Talent Development and Artist Management Group Inc. www.vocalscience.com

416-229-0976 www.vocalscience.com

Vocal Science™
Beginner to Pro Singer in 10 Hours
We Guarantee Results!
We also specialize in Non-Surgical Voice

Noteworthy clients include:
 Lukas Rossi – Winner of the Rockstar: Supernova TV show competition
 Raine of Our Lady Peace (Sony/Juno Award Winner).

Anthony Wal (Montreal): Reaching out!

by Michael Avijit

Quote: "There are many messages that I want to get across to people. But, there is one that stands out the most – keep music and passion alive."

Listening to Anthony Wal you feel yourself transported to a small, cozy indoor gig, as you nod your head in time to the groove of the song; speaking to Anthony Wal you feel the warmth of an honest musician with a passion for his art. His music is simple yet it instantly grabs you with its energy. His easy-going style that is powered by some clean acoustic guitar strumming and bound by his crisp voice is a blend of pop, rock and alternative. The songs have a feel good factor that is reminiscent of such bands as Goo Goo Dolls, Counting Crows and 3 Doors Down.

When he plays live he loves performing solo so that he can connect with his audience personally. "I love the idea of doing live acoustic shows and conveying my thoughts and feelings through music. I especially get a kick out of the way others absorb my 'live-

wire' personality" he says. He's not closed to the idea of a proper concert with a band though, and he mentions that "In the near future, my artist buddies and I will most probably get together to bring full band performances to larger venues for those who love to listen to 'full live band' shows."

One of the reasons why his songs are so accessible is the simplicity of their themes and their heartfelt lyrics. His songs like "Miss You" and "Kiss in Rome" are easy to identify with because they are based on situations that we all find ourselves in.

For Anthony it is not about the moolah, or becoming an a-list celeb, but about letting out his inner emotions through his music. And if fame comes by his way, then of course he's ready to grab it, hoping that through his success he will be able to give something back to those less fortunate. www.anthonywalmusic.com
www.myspace.com/anthonywal





control and try to manage it rather than wait for the problem to control me. At times with my son's epilepsy, I feel that there is little that I can do and fall into despair. I have to turn this despair around and find a way to a positive solution.



As an artist I have a need to communicate and to express myself through music and singing. Arts are very possessive and inhale and absorb much of the time of an artist.

TORONTO EXCLUSIVE
The other artists **Marek Balata, John Alcorn, the backing orchestra also presented a high calibre show much to the audience's delight.**

MAGARET MAYE
The musicians worked so hard on this big and difficult repertoire that was so new to them. I can't find the words to express how much I appreciate their musicianship, work ethics and integrity. The vocal stars brought their quality, charisma and professionalism. It is a joy



Marek Balata
and wonderful experience to be able to work with the best.

TORONTO EXCLUSIVE
When can we expect to hear more of Margaret Maye's music?

MAGARET MAYE
My next big project is scheduled for February of 2008 and is going to feature a star of international calibre, a legendary icon and bard of song, Zhanna Bichevskaya and myself accompanied by the Jazz Trio. It will be an Evening of songs of the heart, Russian Romances, Folk Songs and Jazz Ballads with music by Bulat Okudzhava and others. I also will repeat parts of "Come a Little Closer" in established Toronto's Clubs. I would like to mention that Zhanna Bichevskaya has sold millions of records in over 40 countries. After a TV broadcast of one of her concerts at the famous Olympia Concert Hall in Paris in 1985 - the French critics called her the "Russian Joan Baez".



Models and gowns were supplied by Adrianna Bridal Fashion www.adriannafashion.com

Magaret Maye John Alcorn

TORONTO EXCLUSIVE
You flew in from Poland to perform the Epilepsy Benefit, what was your first reaction when ask to be part



July 5th Reception at the Polish Consulate in Toronto

of this event?
MAREK BALATA
I was delighted to be a part of this wonderful event, especially since it was to benefit Epilepsy Research. Recently I sang in many other benefit concerts in Poland like Schizophrenia and Dialysis Foundations. It is very important for me to be able to help those who are in need through my music. *(next page)*



Music

Marek Balata
Award-winning and Poland's best jazz vocalist