

For Immediate Release

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Award-winning David Braid Sextet to perform at Jazz Festival Brasil

Sextet is first Canadian band to be invited to take part in multi-city Brazil tour

TORONTO, Canada – July 10, 2008 – Canadian award-winning Jazz ensemble The David Braid Sextet will be touring Brazil at its Sixth Annual **Jazz Festival Brasil** in September. As the first Canadian group to be invited to play at the festival, the David Braid Sextet will perform in six cities including Sao Paulo, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Aracaju and Recife between September 3 and 13, 2008.

The sextet will perform classic jazz of the swing era, with a particular focus on the repertoire of the Count Basie Orchestra.

Members of the sextet span 30 years of experience, including performances with some of the key soloists associated with the Basie orchestra: Harry ‘Sweets’ Edison, Clark Terry, and Eddie ‘Lockjaw’ Davis, as well as performances with other classic jazz icons: Al Cohn, Sarah Vaughan, Oscar Peterson, Woody Herman, Nancy Wilson and Rosemary Clooney.

Awarded with Canada’s prestigious 2005 Juno Award for “Best Jazz Album” and nominated again in 2006, the members of the David Braid Sextet include Kevin Turcotte, trumpet; Perry White, saxophone; Gene Smith, trombone; Steve Wallace, bass; and Nick Fraser, drums. Its leader, 33-year-old pianist David Braid, has garnered a reputation as “one of Canada’s most gifted young composers and pianists” (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) through releasing seven recordings and performances across Canada, United States, Europe, Australia, China and Japan.

Jazz Festival Brasil Tour Dates/Time/Locations

Date	Time	Venue
September 3 rd 2008 – Wednesday	9h00 PM	Bourbon Street Music Club: Rua dos Chanés, 127, Moema, São Paulo/SP
September 4 th 2008 – Thursday	8h00 PM	Memorial JK: Eixo Monumental, Lado Oeste, Brasília/DF
September 5 th 2008 – Friday	9h00 PM	Palácio das Artes: Av. Afonso Pena, 1.537 - Centro – Belo Horizonte/MG
September 10 th 2008 - Wednesday	7h00 PM	SESC Ginástico: Av. Graça Aranha, n° 187 Rio de Janeiro – RJ
September 12 th 2008 – Friday	9h00 PM	Teatro Tobias Barreto: Av. Presidente Tancredo Neves, n° 2.209 - Inácio Barbosa – Aracaju/SE
September 13 th 2008 - Saturday	9h00 PM	Teatro de Santa Isabel: Pça. da República, s/n° - Santo Antônio - Recife/PE

Soundbytes

1. Jive at Five: <http://www.davidbraid.com/sounds/jive5.mp3>
2. Perdido: <http://www.davidbraid.com/sounds/perdido.mp3>
3. Topsy: <http://www.davidbraid.com/sounds/topsy.mp3>

About Jazz Festival Brasil 2008

Jazz Festival Brasil is an annual festival tour circuit which presents high profile international musicians to perform throughout Brazil. The festival has already brought to Brazil internationally renowned musicians such as the legendary Duke Ellington Orchestra, Judy Carmichael, Nicholas Payton, and Randy Sandke from the U.S.; Ray Gelato from the U.K.; Iraki and Louis Armstrong Ambassadors from France; Dan Barnett from Australia; among others. This tour is organized by 'Soltz Eventos' in partnership with: Ministerio da Cultura, Lei Estadual de Incentivo a Cultura, and Governo de Minas.

Each year, the festival committee curator selects six international artists to present on this tour. The selection process is highly competitive as this prestigious tour receives hundreds of solicitations from booking agents around the world.

For more information on Jazz Festival Brasil, visit: <http://www.jazzfestivalbrasil.com.br>

Photography

For high-resolution photography (David Braid Sextet, David Braid and members of the ensemble), please click on the following links:

David Braid Sextet Group Shots: www.davidbraid.com/JazzFestivalBrazil2008/David-Braid-Sextet3.zip

David Braid (Band Leader): www.davidbraid.com/JazzFestivalBrazil2008/David-Braid5.zip

David Braid Sextet Band Members: www.davidbraid.com/JazzFestivalBrazil2008/David-Braid-Sextet-bandmembers.zip



The David Braid Sextet

*"Hearing the David Braid Sextet proved their world-class mettle." –
Jack Chambers, author of 'The Music and Times of Miles Davis'*

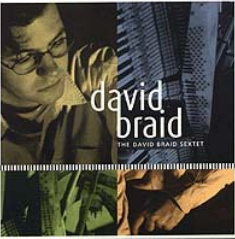

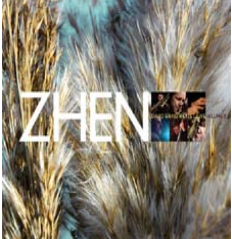
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Foreign Affairs Canada and
International Trade Canada

Affaires étrangères Canada et
Commerce international Canada

David Braid Sextet Recordings, Performance and Press Reviews

		
David Braid: The David Braid Sextet	VIVID: The David Braid Sextet Live	ZHEN: The David Braid Sextet Live, Vol. II
	2005 JUNO AWARD WINNER	2006 JUNO AWARD NOMINEE

Canadian critics have cited the David Braid Sextet as a premier ensemble that exports a compelling statement about the sophisticated jazz talent percolating in Canada. Each composition is crafted by Braid to expose the unique talents in this ensemble. Their first recording in 2001 struck internationally acclaimed jazz critic, Gene Lees, who said: "If Bill Evans were alive, I'd send Braid's CD to him" and their second album, VIVID, won the 2005 Juno Award for Traditional Jazz Album of the Year. Their third album, ZHEN (the last recording made at the historic 'Top 'O The Senator'), was nominated for a Juno Award and was voted one of the top jazz recordings in 2006 by The Toronto Star (top 10), Ottawa Citizen (#1) and All About Jazz (Best of 2006). The Sextet was recently endorsed by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs to tour Japan, China and Hong Kong in 2006.

Performance Review:

- David Braid Sextet, "If Mozart Played Jazz..." - HALIFAX CHRONICLE HERALD [\[full article\]](http://www.davidbraid.com/%21new/press/halifax_review2005.htm) http://www.davidbraid.com/%21new/press/halifax_review2005.htm
- David Braid Sextet, "Pianist Returns to Old Stomping Ground" - HAMILTON SPECTATOR [\[full article\]](http://www.davidbraid.com/press/Braid_Sextet@HCA.pdf) http://www.davidbraid.com/press/Braid_Sextet@HCA.pdf

Articles:

- "Zhen and the Art of Tickling the Ivories" - SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST [\[full article\]](http://www.davidbraid.com/press/south_china_preview.htm) http://www.davidbraid.com/press/south_china_preview.htm
- "Zhen and the Art of Spontaneous Music" - EDMONTON JOURNAL [\[full article\]](http://www.davidbraid.com/press/zhen_review_edmonton.htm) http://www.davidbraid.com/press/zhen_review_edmonton.htm

CD Reviews:

ZHEN: The David Braid Sextet Live, Vol. II

- "Jazz Top 10 for 2006... and then some" - TORONTO STAR
<http://www.thestar.com/article/165249>
- "#1 Jazz Release in 2006" - OTTAWA CITIZEN
http://www.davidbraid.com/press/zhen_ottawa.htm
- "Best Releases in 2006" - ALL ABOUT JAZZ
http://www.davidbraid.com/press/AAJ_bestof2006.pdf
- "Hugely Imaginative and Emotionally Charged" - TORONTO STAR
http://www.davidbraid.com/press/star_zhen_review.htm
- "Sensitive and beautiful, weaving textures that calm, surprise and engage" - TOJAZZ
http://www.davidbraid.com/press/zhen_review_tojazz.htm
- "More inherently orchestral than bassist Dave Holland's flagship quintet, [Braid] demonstrates a similarity in his ability to write knotty tunes that only reveal their idiosyncrasies on closer inspection. Braid's writing, which is never self-conscious, continues to refine itself... Braid has accomplished much for someone still in the early stages of a career. He has been evolving so quickly that he doesn't just need to be watched--he needs to be watched closely." - ALL ABOUT JAZZ (KELMAN)
<http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=23906>
- "This band's longevity and cohesiveness allow Braid to develop knowing that he has a vehicle to play his music--outstanding, superb music--effortlessly... Zhen, paints a picture of Braid as a player and composer who is growing astonishingly quickly." - ALL ABOUT JAZZ (KOPMAN) <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=24152>
- "Saxophonist, Mike Murley, cornetist John MacLeod and trombonist Gene Smith, as well as a rhythm section of incredible depth, Steve Wallace on acoustic bass and Terry Clarke on drums, and led by one of the brightest lights in contemporary composition, David Braid. Put all of these elements together and you have the makings of a must have recording of classic proportions, this is Zhen. " - JAZZ REVIEW (Youngman)
<http://www.jazzreview.com/cd/review-18854.html>
- "discipline... and roaring spirit of improvising" - WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
http://www.davidbraid.com/press/zhen_wfp.gif
- "Top Material Shines" - VANCOUVER SUN
<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/westcoastlife/story.html?id=4be2f700-9c1e-400c-bb09-e6e8039d9981>
- "Six of the seven selections are Braid originals... which show the range of his interests, from blues to melancholic ballads to world music. And it should be noted that the music works as well as it does because of the very effective Braid arrangements." - WHOLENOTE MAGAZINE http://thewholenote.com/discoveries_dec_06/discoveries_jazz.html

CD Reviews (cont'd):

VIVID: The David Braid Sextet LIVE

- "Vivid: The David Braid Sextet Live is yet another reason for listeners abroad to check out the Canadian scene. Young artists like David Braid are proof positive that jazz is alive and well north of the 49th parallel." - ALL ABOUT JAZZ (KELMAN)
<http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=15216>
- "Contemporary Jazz Thrills" - TORONTO STAR
http://www.davidbraid.com/%21new/press/star_vivid_review.htm
- "...intelligent, lyrical, beautiful.. complex and accessible", PLANET S MAGAZINE
http://www.davidbraid.com/%21new/press/saskatoon_preview2004.htm
- "...early years of what will be a remarkable career in jazz." - WHOLENOTE
http://www.davidbraid.com/%21new/press/wholenote_vivid_review.htm
- "The group possesses a fat, punchy, highly structured sound... Although very dynamic, it retains an underlying feeling of relaxed confidence... cover[ing] an impressive range of mood and style." - PLANET JAZZ
http://www.davidbraid.com/%21new/press/planetj_vivid_review.htm

Biographies

David Braid, piano (and band leader)



Touted as one of Canada's most gifted young jazz pianists and composers, David Braid is a Juno Award winner, National Jazz Award recipient, and has performed extensively across Canada, Europe, Australia, Korea, Japan, China and other parts of Asia. He has released six recordings (Opening Day/Universal Music Canada) and garnered four Juno award nominations (the Canadian Grammy.)

Braid graduated from the University of Toronto in 1998 and was nominated for the Canadian Governor General's Academic Medal. In 2001, the Canada Council for the Arts (JazzID program) selected and showcased Braid as one of five important young composers and jazz musicians in Canada.

"Braid has accomplished much for someone still in the early stages of a career. He has been evolving so quickly that he doesn't just need to be watched--he needs to be watched closely." - All About Jazz

Braid made a relatively late entry into music and an even later foray into jazz. After several years of dedicated study, he quickly earned respect from music critics for the quality of his contributions as a composer and performer to a wide range of projects including The David Braid Sextet, Nimmons'n'Braid, Brubeck Braid and Davidson/Murley/Braid Quintet (DMBQ). He is also a regular member of 12 other jazz ensembles including John MacLeod's Rex Hotel Orchestra, Mike Murley Septet, Metalwood, William Carn Quintet, Kelly Jefferson Quartet, Artie Roth Quintet, William Sperandei ensemble, and Nehring, Koller & Braid.

"...he's already secure in the senior ranks of jazz pianists... Braid the player, writer, arranger and bandleader is clearly a force to be reckoned with." - The Toronto Star

Braid was the recipient of the 2007 'SOCAN Composer of the Year,' which recognized his writing for the David Braid Sextet, the principal vehicle for Braid's compositional work since 2000. One notable work was a commission from the Global Knowledge Foundation to compose and perform a piece to honour Dr. Stephen Hawking during his visit to Toronto in 1998.

Thirty-three-year-old Braid has written over sixty works and unveiled his first orchestral piece with the Winnipeg Symphony in 2005, which blended jazz form, symphonic composition and improvisation. Braid's open-mindedness in exploring different music style has allowed him to venture outside jazz circles, as recent engagements with symphony orchestras performing George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" has confirmed Braid as an artist of surprising versatility. He is continuing to explore this blended form through a commission to compose and record an album with the renowned classical quintet, The Canadian Brass.

Aside from performing and composing, Braid has been a faculty member at the University of Toronto since 2003.

"A Jazz Genius to Call Our Own"- Maclean's Magazine

Gene Smith, trombone

Gene Smith completed his formal education under Bill Rivard at Central Michigan University. He earned a Masters Degree in Performance with Ray Wright, Bill Dobbins and John Marcellus at The Eastman School of Music in 1978. After much freelance work in upper New York and touring with The National Jazz Ensemble with Chuck Israels, Smith joined The Woody Herman Orchestra. His career with Woody's Orchestra lasted from 1979 until 1983 during which period he recorded *My Buddy*, *World Class*, 'Live' at the Aurex Jazzfest and 'Live' at Concord. Smith worked the following three years freelancing in the New York Music scene.



In 1985, Smith accepted a position in The Jazz Studies Department at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. He was a major force in the implementation and development of The school's curriculum. In addition to numerous recordings for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with various jazz groups, Smith has recently played on three Maritime Jazz Orchestra discs *Who Are You*, *Siren Song* (Justin' Time) featuring Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor and Norma Winstone.

Over the years, Smith has participated in numerous concerts, television appearances and jazz dates with artists such as Tony Bennett, Mel Torme, Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson, Rosemary Clooney, Stan Getz, Al Cohn, Anita O'Day, George Shearing, Ray Charles, Cyrus Chestnut, Gerry Granelli, Lorne Lofsky, Kirk MacDonald, Pat Labarbera, Marvin Stamm, Natalie Cole, and Aretha Franklin.

Smith continues to carry on actively as a Player, a Clinician, a Festival Adjudicator and a Jazz Festival participant throughout North America.

Steve Wallace, bass

Bassist Steve Wallace was born in 1956 in Toronto and began working with many jazz greats in clubs such as Bourbon St., Lytes, and George's while still in his early 20s. The list includes Clark Terry, Sweets Edison, Lockjaw Davis, George Coleman, Zoot Sims, and Pepper Adams to name a few. He has also recorded and toured internationally with some of the biggest names in Canadian jazz including Fraser MacPherson, Rob McConnell's Boss Brass, Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones.



In 1982 Wallace became associated with the Concord Jazz label and recorded albums as a sideman with Rosemary Clooney, Ed Bickert, and Mel Torme, among others. In 1985 he replaced ailing bassist George Duvivier to tour Europe, Japan, and Australia with Woody Herman's All Stars, a group that included Al Cohn, Buddy Tate, Urbie Green, John Bunch, and Jake Hanna. Currently Wallace maintains a busy playing schedule with such Toronto groups as the Barry Elmes Quintet, Rob McConnell's Tentet, David Braid Sextet, and the Sam Noto Quintet.

Kevin Turcotte, trumpeter



For 20 years, Kevin Turcotte has been freelancing with a wide variety of musical artists on the vibrant Canadian Music Scene. From recording CDs with the Barenaked Ladies and Bruce Cockburn, to touring with afrobeat band Mr. Something Something, to filming an episode of Daniel Berman's series Duos: The Jazz Sessions with drummer Jean Martin, Turcotte always brings his passion and commitment to each situation.

Turcotte has played in bands or recorded with Hermeto Pascoal, Sam Rivers, Carla Bley, Don Byron, Brian Blade, David Tronzo, Tito Puente, Herb Geller, Roscoe Mitchell, Joanne Brackeen, Dafnis Prieto and David Clayton-Thomas.

He has had lengthy tenures with Canadian jazz bands such as Rob McConnell and the Boss Brass, the Barry Elmes Quintet featuring Ed Bickert, Time Warp, Barry Romberg's Random Access, Andrew Downing's Great Uncles of the Revolution, the Neufeld Occhipinti Jazz Orchestra (NOJO), the Dave Young Quintet, the Sicilian Jazz Project and the Jean Martin Trio.

Turcotte is on more than 100 recordings. Seventeen of which have garnered Juno Nominations and three were Juno winners. He received the prestigious Grand Prix de Jazz at the Montreal Jazz Festival as a member of the Great Uncles and has been recognized by the Jazz Report Magazine and the National Jazz Awards on numerous occasions as jazz trumpeter of the year.

Turcotte graduated from the University of Toronto with a BA in Music and has attended a few summer jazz sessions at the Banff School of Fine Arts under the tutelage of teachers like Dave Holland, Kenny Wheeler, Steve Coleman, Dave Douglas, Anthony Davis and Kenny Werner.

Turcotte taught in the University of Toronto Jazz Degree program for over a decade from its inception until 2004 and is now in his third year at York University where he teaches trumpet and workshops.

Perry White, saxophones

Perry White's expressive tone and lyrical approach to playing the saxophone have kept him busy performing in Canada and around the world for three decades. Born in Vancouver, White starting playing gigs in the local coffee houses and bars at the age of 16, soon after hooking up with Canadian jazz greats to be such as Hugh Fraser, Cam Ryga and Renee Rosnes.



White's broad musical experience and influences helped him develop his own sound, steeped in the tradition of jazz and charged with the energy and experimentation of modern music.

Moving east to Toronto in the 80s, White has since performed and recorded with a diverse cross-section of Canadian and international artists including Hilario Duran, Dave Young, Kevin Briet, Shuffle Demons, Bill Mays (USA), Mouse on Mars (Germany), Hugh Fraser, Phil Dwyer, Doug Riley, Michael White, John Alcorn, John MacLeod, Dave McMurdo, Mr. Something Something, Raise the Roof (Holland), Boss Brass, Reg Schwager, Planet Earth, Steve Wallace, Rob Armus (France), Hugh Marsh, Ted Quinlan, Lou Pomante, Richard Whiteman, Roberto Occipinti, Claude Ranger, Freddie Stone, Esprit Orchestra, Dione Taylor, Don Thompson, Richard Underhill and Holly Cole. White has received the Jazz Report Baritone saxophonist of the Year Award four times and the Best Soundtrack at the Atlantic Film Festival for his solo sax performance on the film "Portfolio."

Nick Fraser, drums



Nick Fraser has been an active and engaging presence in the Toronto new jazz and improvised music community since he moved there from Ottawa in 1996. He has worked with a veritable "who's who" of Canadian jazz and improvised music including Justin Haynes, Mike Murley, Rich Underhill, PJ Perry, Phil Dwyer, Michael Snow, John Oswald, Andrew Downing, Jean Martin, Christine Duncan, Joe Sorbara, Lina Allemano, Quinsin Nachoff, Dave Restivo, Jim Vivian, David Braid, Ryan Driver, David Occhipinti, William Carn, Nancy Walker, Kieran Overs, Kelly Jefferson, Mark Eisenman, John MacLeod, Ken Aldcroft, Scott Thomson, Marilyn Lerner, Lori Freedman, Jean Derome, Ron Samworth and Kirk MacDonald. In addition, he has had the opportunity to perform with such international artists as Michael Moore, Jean-Luc Ponty, Marilyn Crispell, Donny McCaslin, William Parker, Anthony Braxton, Bela Fleck, Joe Lovano, John Scofield, Wynton Marsalis, David Binney, Steve Turre, Matt Welch, Bill Carrothers and Bill Mays.

Fraser's recorded works as a leader include "Owls in Daylight" (1997) and "Nick Fraser and Justin Haynes are faking it" (2004). He co-leads the co-operative group Drumheller with Brodie West, Rob Clutton, Eric Chenaux and Doug Tielli who released their self-titled debut CD on the rat-drifting label in 2005 and "Wives" in 2006. Other projects that occupy Fraser regularly are the Lina Allemano 4, Deep Dark United and The Bill Grove Quartet. Fraser is a founding member of The Association of Improvising Musicians of Toronto.

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