

Press Release

**The NCPA and blueFROG Concert Series
presents**

Mike Stern and The Louiz Banks Jazz Trio live in Mumbai March 16th and 18th

Mumbai, March 12th, 2010: Starting this March, **blueFROG** and the **National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA)** will come together to bring **quality live music** from India and around the world to Indian audiences. Whilst the music scene in India is rapidly burgeoning, there is still a dearth of musical talent available for discerning music lovers. The partnership between **blueFROG** and the **NCPA** seeks to remedy that. Using their respective competencies, the two organizations will create **a collaboration that will consistently strive to bring in musical acts of an International standard to the city**. Bearing in mind the varied tastes of their audiences, they hope to cover all bases by bringing in talent that will have a niche as well as a universal appeal. The coming together of these institutions can only be a boon to the avid music lovers.

To prove this point, the inaugural event will feature **six-time Grammy nominated Jazz musician Mike Stern** performing live at **blueFROG** and the **NCPA** along with **Bombay's very own Louiz Banks Trio**. The performances will be held on **March 16th at blueFROG and March 18th at the NCPA**. **Performing for the first time together** and in India, this tantalizing collaboration is going to set the stage on fire. This remarkable union promises to be a **heady experience for Jazz lovers** and lovers of great musical talent in general!

Neither **Mike Stern** nor the **Louis Banks Jazz Trio** needs much of an introduction – **Six-time Grammy nominated musician, Mike Stern** has established himself as one of the premier jazz and jazz-fusion guitarists and composers of his generation in a career spanning more than 3 decades; **Louiz Banks** has been unanimously hailed as **India's best jazz composer and pianist**. He carves another notch in his eventful career with this exciting jazz group, **The Louiz Banks Jazz Trio**. This band focuses on **smooth and very contemporary jazz renditions of jazz standards and originals** that are refreshingly fresh and tingling in their subtle and thought provoking nuances.

Says **Khushroo Suntook, Chairman of the NCPA**, *"We have been trying to introduce new age music and new genres to the NCPA's bouquet of arts. A collaboration with a **progressive organisation like blueFROG**, who have been consistently bringing in well-known and exciting artists, is indeed the way to go. We hope to continue this association and bring some of the best musicians to this city, reaffirming Mumbai's position as India's cultural capital."*

One of the main reasons that the team decided to invite **Mike Stern** to perform at the very first concert was not only as a result of his stature as a **Jazz musician par excellence**, but also due to the fact that **Stern** himself wanted nothing more than to perform once again in India after his last visit here a decade ago in 2000

Speaking on the collaboration and the inaugural event, **blueFROG Partner, Mahesh Mathai** adds, *"The sheer size and grandeur of the **NCPA** is a major trump card for us to be a part of this collaboration. Jazz is still in its infancy in India and what better place than the **NCPA** for it to reach a lot more people than it would if we were to only have the concert at **blueFROG**."*

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Mike Stern

In a career that spans three decades and a discography that includes more than a dozen eclectic and innovative recordings, six-time GRAMMY nominated guitarist Mike Stern has established himself as one of the premier jazz and jazz-fusion guitarists and composers of his generation. Mike Stern's music has always come from a colourful and diverse part of town – a place where numerous artistic styles converge to create a fresh sound that's rooted in jazz but refuses to adhere to rigid borders. Since his earliest recordings, this former bandmate of Miles Davis, Jaco Pastorius, Billy Cobham and other high-profile innovators has grafted elements of rock, blues, soul and more to his solid jazz foundations. On Stern's street, anybody who brings a sense of energy, eclecticism and passion to the craft of music is welcome to play.

The Louiz Banks Jazz Trio

Louiz Banks is unanimously hailed as India's best jazz composer and pianist.. Louiz carves another notch in his eventful career with this exciting jazz group MAIDEN VOYAGE. This Band focuses on smooth and very contemporary jazz renditions of jazz standards and originals that is refreshingly fresh and tingling in its subtle and thought provoking nuances.

Sheldon D'silva on Bass is the young and dynamic and very brilliant electric bassist that is dazzling audiences everywhere with his virtuosity and versatility.

Gino Banks on drums is the new drum sensation in the country that is wowing listeners wherever he plays with his dazzling and superior technique, his sensitivity and his amazing versatility.

Mike Stern & Louiz Banks Jazz Trio

Jazz Music Concert

Blue Frog on Tuesday, 16th March 2010

Tata Theatre, NCPA, on Thursday, 18th - 7.30 pm

The **NCPA** and **BLUE FROG** are coming together to bring quality live music from India around the world to Indian audiences. Whilst the music scene in India is rapidly burgeoning, there is still a dearth of musical talent available for discerning music lovers. This partnership is seeking to remedy that. The aim is to use our respective competencies, and create a collaboration that will consistently strive to bring in musical acts of an International standard. With the varied tastes of our clients and members, we hope to cover all bases and bring in talent that will have a niche as well as a universal appeal. The coming together of these institutions can only be a boon to the avid music lover and we hope to always surprise and delight our audiences with the calibre and diversity of the talent we bring in! And to prove our point, for our inaugural event who could ask for more than MIKE STERN and THE LOUIZ BANKS TRIO!

Performing for the first time together and in India, this tantalizing collaboration is going to set the stage on fire. This remarkable union promises to be a heady experience for Jazz lovers and lovers of great musical talent in general!