



BACARDI U.S.A., INC.



DRANOFF 2 PIANO FOUNDATION PRESENTS JAZZ SQUARED CONCERT

Jazz concert features duo Stephanie and Saar and premieres Martin Bejerano's "Fantasía de Tres Mundos for 2 pianos", a new two-piano work commissioned by the Dranoff in conjunction with Bacardi USA

MIAMI (March 24, 2014) – Dranoff 2 Piano Foundation will present Saar Ahuvia and Stephanie Ho, playing **Jazz Squared**, a concert of 2-piano jazz on Saturday, April 19, 8:00 p.m. at the South Dade Cultural Center, 10950 SW 211th Street. The unique program will feature works by Gershwin, Dizzy Gillespie, Bill Evans and Aaron Copland. Moreover, it will be the premiere of Martin Bejerano's "Fantasía de Tres Mundos for 2 pianos" (Three Worlds Fantasia), a new two-piano work commissioned by the Dranoff in conjunction with Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.

Duo Stephanie and Saar has been praised by *The New York Times* for its "beautifully understated performances." *The Huffington Post* acclaimed the duo's interpretation of Bach, while observing they were "drop-dead gorgeous." The duo has been celebrated for its two-piano rendering of Stravinsky's *Petrouchka* in Miami, Washington and Portland. Saar Ahuvia, a native of Israel, and Stephanie Ho, of Taiwanese descent and brought up in Portland, are married and live in New York City.

In addition, the Miami-born Bejarano is a graduate of the New World School of Music, Florida State University and the University of Miami, where today he heads the jazz piano program at UM. He records and tours with the ensembles of drummer Roy Haynes and guitarist Russell Malone. In 2007, he released his chart-topping album *Evolution/Revolution*. His Dranoff commission pays homage to his roots in Afro-Cuban music, American jazz and the European classical tradition.

"The "Bacardi Choice" commission reflects the Bacardi commitment to creativity in music – in our being part of a celebration of life, our core philosophy about supporting the arts, and our passion for helping Miami culture flourish," says Robert Furniss-Roe, Regional President of Bacardi North America.

Furniss-Roe added that Bacardi has a long-standing history as a patron and promoter of music. In the early 1920s, in Cuba, the Bacardi family's legacy in music was cemented by Facundito Bacardi, grandson of founder Facundo Bacardí Massó. Facundito would share the Bacardi family's passion for music, creating a festive music environment by throwing open the doors of the family home for parties and musical acts.

"It's so important for the community that through collaboration we are able to coordinate events such as this," said Gabriele Fiorentino, Dranoff president. "We invite everyone to join us for the unique experience of a new two-piano masterpiece".

Jazz Squared prices are \$30 general admission; \$5 Students. For tickets and more information, please visit <http://www.dranoff2piano.org>, call (305)572-9900, or purchase online through the South Miami-Dade Cultural Center, <http://www.smdcac.org>.

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About Dranoff International 2 Piano Foundation, Miami's Gateway to the World of Music

For 27 years, the Dranoff International 2 Piano Foundation has been the world's leading organization to champion exclusively two piano repertoires and artistry. It is the only international foundation, accredited by the World Federation of International Music Competitions, to discover, promote, and award honors to top professional duo piano artists through its competition, commissions, and presentations of duo piano concerts. The Dranoff promotes awareness to a new generation of students of the transformational power of music and the arts through its multi-disciplinary, educational, and inspirational concert program, Piano Slam.

The Dranoff is one of the few world-class performing arts organizations headquartered in Miami-Dade County, whose activities span the globe and create recognition abroad of the region's positive image and commitment to the highest standards of creativity and the arts.

Dranoff also promotes Miami as an international cultural destination. It exposes its home audiences to major international artists, thereby creating a cultural bridge to foster universal understanding and respect through music.

About Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.

Bacardi U.S.A., Inc. is the United States import and distribution arm of one of the world's leading spirits and wine producers. The company boasts a portfolio of some of the most recognized and top-selling spirits brands in the United States including BACARDÍ® rum, the world's best-selling and most-awarded rum, as well as the world's most-awarded spirit; GREY GOOSE® vodka, the world's leading super-premium vodka; DEWAR'S® Blended Scotch whisky, the world's most-awarded blended Scotch; BOMBAY SAPPHIRE® gin, the top-valued and fastest-growing premium gin in the world; MARTINI® vermouth and sparkling wines, the world's leading vermouth and the world's favorite Italian sparkling wines; CAZADORES® 100% blue agave tequila, one of the most popular premium tequilas in Mexico and the United States; and other leading and emerging brands including ST-GERMAIN®, a super-premium elderflower liqueur. For additional information, visit www.bacardiusa.com.

Editor's Note:

Photographs of Duo Stephanie Ho and Saar Ahuvia , as well as Martin Bejerano are available.

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