



Cellist Matt Haimovitz has established himself as one of classical music's most adventurous artists, equally at ease playing the masterworks for his instrument in solo, chamber and concerto performances in leading concert halls, as he is in bringing classical music to new listeners in alternative venues.

In 1984, he made his debut with the Israel Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta performing Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto No. 1 in a televised appearance. Since then he has performed with such conductors as James Levine, Daniel Barenboim, Charles Dutoit, Sir Neville Marriner, Seiji Ozawa, Leonard Slatkin, and Michael Tilson Thomas. He has appeared as a soloist in North America with many of the great symphony orchestras and philharmonics, including those of Boston, Chicago,

Cleveland, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, and internationally with the Berlin Philharmonic, the Orchestre de Paris, Philharmonia Orchestra of London, the Radio Orchestras of Frankfurt, Cologne, Leipzig, and Hanover, the New Japan Philharmonic, the Beijing Opera Orchestra, and others.

Not just "another prodigy", Haimovitz's career was launched by a notable performance at Carnegie Hall at age 13, replacing his teacher, Leonard Rose, in a quintet which included Isaac Stern, Mstislav Rostropovich and Pinchas Zukerman. At 17, Matt Haimovitz signed a ten-year exclusive recording contract with the Deutsche Grammophon label (DGG) that resulted in six acclaimed recordings documenting his development from a cellist firmly rooted in the romantic virtuoso tradition to an artist unafraid to delve into all corners of the contemporary imagination. The breadth of his repertoire today is rich and ever-expanding, and his approach makes listeners appreciate familiar pieces with a fresh ear and open mind, as he embraces new music and works from the traditional concert repertoire with equal focus.

Recently, Matt Haimovitz has toured "After Reading Shakespeare," new works composed for him by Pulitzer Prize Winning composers. Matt Haimovitz has brought his performances of Bach Suites, as well as a new music repertoire, to bars, cafes, and other alternative spaces where classical music is not usually heard. His unique style of playing, combined with his non-traditional choice of venues, has earned him much critical praise and acclaim. In 2004, the American Music Center awarded Haimovitz one of its highest distinctions, the Trailblazer Award, for his far-reaching contribution to American music.

Special Thanks:

Kimo Theater

The wonderful staff at the Historic El Rey Theater.

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Matt Haimovitz

Sunday, March 9 2008

KIMO Theater, Albuquerque NM

With special guests David Schepps, Joan Zucker, Felix Wurman.

Program will be announced from the stage.

Guest Performer Bios

David Schepps, UNM cello professor and New Mexico Symphony (NMSO) cellist, has been a soloist and chamber musician for National Public Radio's "Performance Today," Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium, the Phillips Collection (Washington DC), concerts in Taiwan, Switzerland, Germany, England, Italy, Canada, Mexico. He has won competitions and soloed with regional orchestras, and is soloist next season with the NMSO. He has played in the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, L'Orchestre de La Suisse Romande, Phoenix Symphony and Kansas City Symphony. Schepps has performed duos with cellists Matt Haimovitz and Wendy Warner, bassist Gary Karr, and in chamber music with cellists Lynn Harrell, Laszlo Varga, Yehuda Hanani, Timothy Eddy and Joanna DeKeyser. Schepps was a Fulbright student of legendary French cellist Pierre Fournier, studied at Manhattan and Mannes Schools of Music, and holds a doctorate from Arizona State University.

Felix Wurman, a member of the NMSO, was given a cello at age 7 and performed publicly at age 12. He studied privately with Jacqueline DuPre for two years, was a participant in the Open Chamber Music Festival at Prussia Cove in Cornwall, England, and founded the Chamber music group Domus which performed in a portable geodesic concert hall throughout Europe. Wurman returned to Chicago to join the Lyric Opera Orchestra. An interest in Bach and the growing popularity of period instruments led him to Amsterdam to study under Anner Bylisma who encouraged him to build a five-string cello. He runs Albuquerque's "Church of Beethoven," giving regular Sunday morning concerts.

Joan Zucker, the NMSO's Principal Cellist was first heard by New Mexicans in the mid-seventies, as jazz cellist with the Johnny Gilbert Quartet and Principal Cellist of the Orchestra of Santa Fe. Since then she has performed in many of New Mexico's finest ensembles, from the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Opera, to Twentieth Century Unlimited. She has performed as concerto soloist and recitalist, and in numerous chamber groups, orchestras, and festivals in the United States and in Venezuela, her home for four years. Zucker is a versatile musician who has taught extensively (cello, recorder, voice, orchestra, chamber music, theory, composition and improvisation), both privately and at various institutions including U.C. Santa Cruz, Ithaca College, and UNM. A native New Yorker, Joan holds music degrees from Bennington and Ithaca Colleges.

Jessica Taylor, soprano, Master of Music candidate, UNM, student of Leslie Umphrey

Cellists:

Rochelle Brown*, Bachelor of Music, UNM

Sandro Francischetti*, MM candidate, UNM, member of Sao Paulo Symphony, Brazil

Celeste Power*, BM-UNM, MM-University of Oklahoma

Christina Velarde*, MM-UNM, String Teacher APS

Brody Johnson, studied at Cincinnati Conservatory

Art Sheinberg-Pianist

*student of Schepps

A Message from the Producer

We are once again privileged to have Matt Haimovitz return to Albuquerque in what promises to be an unparalleled performance by one of the world's greatest living concert cellists. The Historic El Rey Theater hosted Matt Haimovitz during his "Listening Room Tour" in 2003, and again for a dual performance in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe in 2005. Audiences were left breathless by the mastery of his instrument coupled with the soul of the artist intertwined into a human expression understood by all.

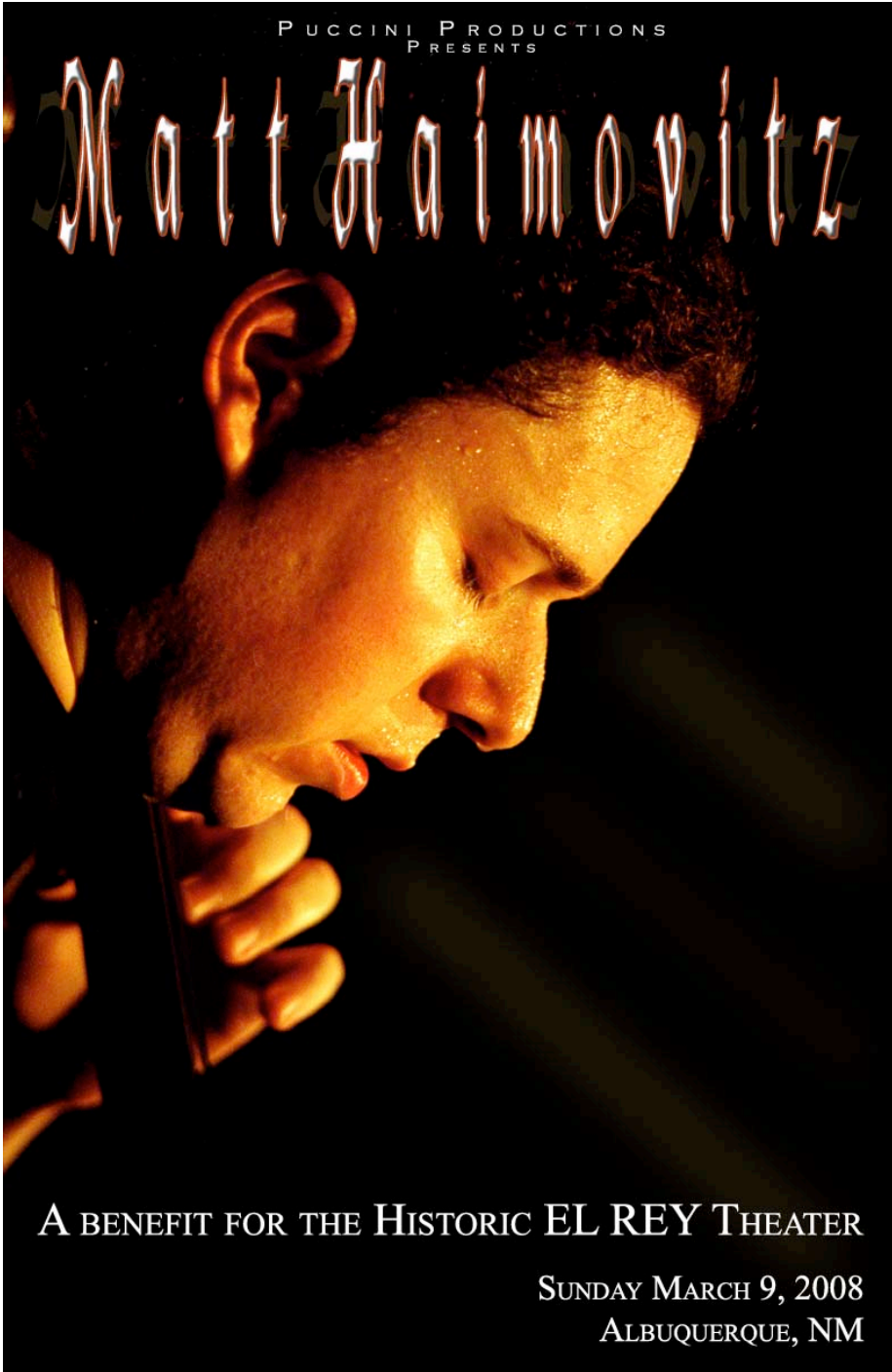
Such is the case whenever a masterful artist manages to cross our paths and leaves an imprint that one remembers for the rest of his or her life. But the effect of the artist usually ends with that experience. Not so with Matt Haimovitz. Matt Haimovitz is not only a superbly talented artist, but a man whose inner depth transcends his artistry in his kindness and compassion, and his vision toward the future. This is evident in his delving into the unknown waters of new music, as well as his complete reverence for the masters.

It is also noticed in the way that Matt cares about the musical future of a town, not his own, and the people in it. We were truly speechless when we were told that Matt wanted to turn this concert into a benefit for the Puccini Building tragedy, with the hope that "we help to bring attention and raise funds for a rebirth of musical culture in downtown Albuquerque." Matt is a genuine artist filled with kindness, compassion and exquisite virtuosity. Matt Haimovitz is a rarity.

Our philosophy at the Historic El Rey Theater is to provide quality entertainment and support the local Arts community. To that end, we have included some of Albuquerque's finest local concert musicians as well as students in tonight's performance. In addition, Matt will give a Master Class to young musicians at the University of New Mexico.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have helped us in the planning of this event. We would like to thank David Schepps, who tirelessly worked on the planning of the program. We would like to extend a special thank you to those who have come together to help the El Rey Theater/Puccini's Golden West Saloon; it's employees, volunteers, and family, try to overcome a tremendous loss to Albuquerque history – and start anew. We would like to announce the formation of our new non-profit corporation, Puccini Productions, and would like to thank my wonderful husband for helping us move quickly to form this new entity. And finally, we would like to thank you, our audience, for supporting our efforts and making our job a delight.

*--Kathy Zimmer
Artistic Director & President
Puccini Productions
Co-Owner, Historic El Rey Theater*



PUCCINI PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

Matt Haimovitz

A BENEFIT FOR THE HISTORIC EL REY THEATER

SUNDAY MARCH 9, 2008
ALBUQUERQUE, NM