

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AGH *performance* presents
CANADA INC.
A World Music Celebration

with musicians Wazimbo, Luanda Jones, Arlene Bishop, Brian Melo and Tomi Swick

On Friday, March 2 at 7 pm, Art Gallery of Hamilton *performance* series presents **Canada Inc.** bringing together local and international artists exploring the Canadian experience through world music. Internationally renowned Mozambican singer **Wazimbo** on his first Canadian tour joins Brazilian singer-songwriter **Luanda Jones**, Toronto-based **Arlene Bishop**, Canadian Idol winner **Brian Melo** and Hamilton's own **Tomi Swick** for an evening celebrating Canada's diversity in song. With performances in Portuguese and English, the featured artists are creating a new Canadian songbook.

Canada Inc. takes place at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King Street West, downtown Hamilton. Doors open at 6:30 pm; cash bar available.

Tickets are \$20 for AGH Members; \$24 for Students and Seniors; and \$26 for General Admission. Tickets may be purchased online at www.artgalleryofhamilton.com, by phone at 905.527.6610, ext. 232 or in person at the Art Gallery of Hamilton during Gallery hours.

Canada Inc. is presented in partnership with Vasco Da Gama F.C and co-presented with Matapa World Music and Art, dedicated to presenting world music in Hamilton. AGH *performance* is supported by Canadian Heritage.

For further information, please visit www.artgalleryofhamilton.com.

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To access high-resolution images of AGH exhibitions and programming from our website Media Centre, please e-mail: steve@artgalleryofhamilton.com

For further information on the Art Gallery of Hamilton, its exhibitions and programming, please contact: Steve Denyes, Manager, Communications
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Artist Bios

Wazimbo

Hollywood can't be wrong! Sean Penn included Wazimbo's everlasting ballad *Nwahulwana* for the soundtrack of his film *The Pledge* starring Jack Nicholson, before *Nwahulwana* was used by Microsoft for an international campaign. The music is a thrilling mixture of big band sounds, Latin melody lines and unique African dancing rhythms, typical for Portuguese-speaking Africa. Wazimbo started his musical career in 1964 with the Silverstars (continued as a singer with the Geiziers, performing a colonial mix of international pop music with a Brazilian tinge in Mozambique's capital, Maputo.

Luanda Jones

Luanda Jones captivates audiences with her unique blend of suave, jazz-inflected vocals and stylized guitar harmonies. She passionately interprets some of Brazil's most cherished musical traditions. Drawing from Brazil's diverse popular music scene, she colours the expansive, encyclopaedic sonic shades of her influences with an unforgettable vocal charm and an entirely welcoming on-stage personality.

Brian Melo

When he became the Canadian Idol winner in 2007, Hamilton singer-songwriter Brian Melo became a household name and embarked on a personal journey to, in some small way, change the world through music. Brian's debut album *Living It* revealed his fast emerging songwriting instincts via his five co-written songs. The album achieved Gold Status and his first single *All I Ever Wanted* hit #1 on the charts, and became the unofficial anthem for the 2008 Canadian Summer Olympic Team. Brian charted two additional singles, *Shine* and *Summertime* from his debut. *Summertime* was also covered by Australian Idol winner Shannon Noll and was a Top 20 hit down under.

Arlene Bishop

Arlene Bishop has been described alternately as a well-kept secret and on the verge of discovery but after four music albums, a Gemini Award-winning screenplay, numerous TV themes, countless songs placed in film and TV, and glowing reviews for her live performances, she remains a name that most people think they know but can't identify. Arlene prefers to maintain a low profile because, as she says with a smile, "that's where the interesting conversations are." Arlene's musical style can either be described as Folk or Pop, Rock or Country. After three full band albums (*Pinky*, *Snarky Girlpop*, *Cut a Man's Heart Out*) she produced a stark solo acoustic live album (*Begin Again*) and her next album (*Beginners*) has orchestral ensemble arrangements. An amusing muser who has elevated between-song banter to an art form, Arlene manages to weave darkness and light with craft and charm.

Tomi Swick

Honesty is an ongoing theme with Juno Award-winner Tomi Swick. The thirteen songs on his debut album, *Stalled Out in the Doorway*, tell honest tales of some of the harsh realities of relationships. Tomi's beautiful voice and lilting melodies sometimes belie the dark subject matter in many of the songs. "My songs don't always make me out to be such a nice guy," confesses Tomi Swick. "But I'm just trying to be honest about what's going on in my life."