



20 April 2009

World Class Jazz Quartet Play Concert at the Music Box

On 1st May the Mario Caribe Jazz Quartet, featuring David Berkman, will host a workshop and perform a one-off concert at the Music Box, Stevenson College's state-of-the-art music and performance venue in the West of Edinburgh.

Originally from Sao Paulo in Brazil, Mario moved to Scotland in 1996 and later joined the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra on double bass. Mario has played with some of the world's top jazz musicians including Kenny Wheeler, Bobby Watson and recently with Carol Kidd in China.

David Berkman, the accomplished pianist, is travelling from New York especially for the concert. Mario and David previously played together at the 2007 and 2008 Edinburgh Jazz Festivals.

Mario teaches electric bass at Stevenson College Edinburgh and believes the Music Box is fast becoming an important focus for music in the community. The workshop session in the afternoon will allow students and members of the public to experience the dynamic of an open rehearsal. Mario, who has been teaching music students for 20 years, said:

"I enjoy teaching. To pass your skills on to others you must re-examine how you play and by doing so you can improve yourself."

The Music Box is part of the College's award-winning Faculty of Creative Arts, which is the only College music department in Scotland to offer classical music courses, and has been rated by BTEC (Business Technology and Education Council) as among the top three providers in the UK.

Officially launched in October 2007 the Music Box has already been used by a number of prestigious organisations including the Strathclyde Youth Jazz Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus, National Youth Choir of Scotland, Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers, Edinburgh Festival Chorus and MGA Stage School.

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Notes to editors

- The workshop will start 3pm and is open to the general public. The concert starts at 7.30pm and is open to the general public. Tickets cost £7 for the concert and £4 for the workshop.

- The Music Box offers excellent practice, recording and performance facilities to musicians, actors and dancers, which includes a recording studio, rehearsal rooms, practice booths, 120-seated auditorium, dance studio with sprung floor, digital audio suite and classrooms. There are a range of innovative courses on offer for talented and emerging artists pursuing careers in the industry. A programme of evening and weekend courses is also available for the local community, allowing people of all levels and all ages to explore their leisurely and professional interests. The facilities can be booked for private and commercial hire.
- Stevenson College Edinburgh is one of the largest further education Colleges in Scotland and is home to over 17,000 students, of which over 3,200 are full-time (2007-08 academic year). They offer a range of courses from Introductory courses and NQs (National Qualifications) through to HNDs (Higher National Diplomas), BTECs and Degree Foundation. They have a variety of study modes available from full-time, part-time, day release, evening, e-learning and open learning.

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