

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release
Friday 30 April 2010

GUITAR VIRTUOSO TO LAUNCH NEW SOLO ALBUM

Judith Wright Centre and Jazz Queensland in association with Pinnacle Music Productions present
JAMES SHERLOCK AND WEST END COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE

Internationally acclaimed jazz guitarist **James Sherlock** will launch his first solo album alongside Brisbane's renowned ten-piece jazz ensemble **West End Composers Collective** at Judith Wright Centre on Friday 7 May 2010.

Audiences can expect to be taken on a sonic journey of transfixing sounds and beautiful melodies when **James Sherlock** performs 11 tunes from his new self-titled solo album (released on the back of Pinnacles Music).

James Sherlock's repertoire will include six originals, which display Sherlock's exceptional command of his instrument and intricate grasp of harmony.

Sherlock will also perform his exquisite rendition of Hugh Cornwell's *Golden Brown* and the Van Heusen/Burke jazz classic *It Could Happen to You*.

Critically acclaimed for his work with a range of artists and ensembles, **James Sherlock** has worked with the likes of Kristin Berardi, Katie Noonan, New York film composer Howard Shore, British guitar virtuoso Martin Taylor, The Australian Chamber Orchestra, The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and The Queensland Orchestra.

James Sherlock was awarded the Ike Isaacs International Jazz Guitar Award in 1997 and was nominated for a Freedman Fellowship in 2005.

With the **James Sherlock** Trio, Sherlock has released four critically acclaimed albums to date.

Sharing the stage with **James Sherlock** will be the acclaimed ten-piece ensemble, **West End Composers Collective**, performing new repertoire and world premieres by Steve Newcomb, Rafael Karlen, Josh Hatcher, Hannah Macklin and Wade Gregory.

The **West End Composer Collective's** latest CD *Driving Hat* has received rave reviews, with ABC Radio National declaring that the "little big band is alive and well in Australia".

The *Sydney Morning Herald* gave critical acclaim to the compositions of tenor saxophonist Rafael Karlen, proclaiming that through his "...spread of moods, melodies, rhythms and textures, not to mention his vibrant playing, a star emerges".

For one night only **James Sherlock and West End Composers Collective** will share the Judith Wright Centre stage on Friday 7 May 2010.

-ENDS-

Date	Friday 7 May 2010
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Full \$30, Concession \$25
Bookings	07 3872 9000 www.judithwrightcentre.com

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

BIOGRAPHIES

JAMES SHERLOCK

James was born in New Zealand and began playing classical guitar at the age of seven. After moving to Australia he attended the QLD Conservatorium of Music in 1992, studying classical guitar. James relocated to Melbourne in 1993 and stayed there 10 years, playing and recording with Melbourne's best players including Scott Tinkler, Barney McAll, Joe Chindamo and Allan Browne.

Since moving back to Brisbane James has concentrated on his own solo, trio and quartet projects as well as a duo with Sydney vocalist Kristin Berardi. James and Kristin recorded their first CD in 2006 and toured Europe in 2007 culminating in a performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival, James also accompanied Kristin when she was awarded the 2007 Freedman Fellowship at the Sydney Opera House. James also performs in Brisbane with "The Local Group" with drummer Ken Edie and pianist Steve Newcomb.

The James Sherlock Trio also featured on the TV series "The Pulse" on ABCTV. In Brisbane James has performed with many touring artists including Dale Barlow, James Morrison and Bernie McGann and international visitors Sheila Jordan (US) Martin Taylor (UK) and trumpeter Ingrid Jensen (US)

Recent highlights include being invited by Sydney's "Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra" to perform Ed Partyka's (US/Germany) "Continental Call" a concerto for jazz guitar and jazz orchestra and performing in the 2008 "Java Jazz Festival" in Jakarta with the Kristin Berardi Band.

James has also played with a diverse range of artists including The Australian Chamber Orchestra, The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Katie Noonan, Joe Camilleri and US film composer Howard Shore. James' awards include the "1997 Ike Isaacs International Jazz Guitar Award" and a Freedman Fellowship nomination in 2005. James currently teaches at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and plays a custom Hancock archtop guitar.

THE WEST END COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE

The West End Composers Collective is a ten-piece ensemble comprised of Brisbane's finest jazz artists. Formed in 2003 as a monthly gathering for Brisbane's creative improvising musicians, composers and arrangers to workshop original material, the ensemble has toured throughout Australia appearing at venues and festivals including the Valley Jazz Festival, Melbourne Women's International Jazz Festival and the Woodford Folk Festival. They have recorded two albums of original material "Downstream" and "Driving Hat" both released on the Pinnacles Music Label.

Their latest release *Driving Hat* features ten original creations by saxophonist/composer Rafael Karlen. Utilising the unique skills of the Collective's ten members, Rafael embraces each musician's individual strengths to deliver a collaboration of unified sound around his rich harmonies and melodic lines. *Driving Hat* solidifies the ensemble's aim to produce an outstanding contemporary jazz album of original Australian compositions.

"Beyond storms, beaches and bullish cricketers, Queensland has a thriving music scene, thanks to a having more prescient state government. While such participants as Steve Newcomb, James Sherlock, Graeme Norris and Megan Washington are well known around Australia, the composer and arranger of these pieces for the 11-piece West End Composers Collective is a newcomer: tenor saxophonist Rafael Karlen. On the basis this spread of moods, melodies, rhythms and textures, not to mention his vibrant playing, a star emerges."

John Shand, *Sydney Morning Herald* on *Driving Hat*

www.westendcomposers.com.au

www.myspace.com/westendcomposers

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