

Arboreal Quartet

press release January 13, 2011

Joining the **Arboreal Quartet** for their first show of 2011 are: **Eric Thibodeau** – drums; **Sage Reynolds** – upright bass. Eric graduated from McGill University in December 2006 in jazz performance, and has played alongside noted musicians in Montreal such as **Michel Donato, Joel Miller, John Roney, Kevin Dean, Steve Amirault** and others.

The bulk of Sage's musical training occurred while completing his Bachelor of Music Degree, Majoring in Jazz Performance, at McGill University (2000). Other training has included several years of private study (with **Jordan O'Connor, Michel Donato, Alec Walkington, John Hebert**, and others) as well as participation in numerous master classes and seminars, including a bass master class with **Mark Dresser** and participation in *The International Jazz Workshop* at *The Banff Centre for the Arts* (1999), where he played and studied with **Dave Holland, Joe Lovano, Dave Douglas**, and **Kenny Werner**. Sage was awarded the "Prix Étoiles Galaxie de Radio-Canada" at the 2005 *Montréal International Jazz Festival* for his compositions "Saturday Afternoon" and "On the Wall".

The **Arboreal Quartet**, from Montréal, Québec, is an instrumental, acoustic ensemble performing original compositions by **John Wrinch Williams**, who founded the group in 2008. John's musical background includes formal training in Hindustani music, jazz instruction, apprenticeships in traditional music in Ontario and Québec, teaching, and much experience in performance and composition for a variety of instruments and ensembles. John plays the *sarod*, the 25-stringed relative of the sitar.

Acoustic guitarist **Tom Eliosoff** cites his major influences to be his teacher, **Lorne Lofsky**, and renowned guitarist **Kurt Rosenwinkel**. Tom is very active in the Montréal jazz scene, performing with the **Chet Doxas Quartet**, teaching, and hosting jazz nights at noted clubs such as *Grumpy's* and *Upstairs*.

The Arboreal Quartet's music draws from folk/roots, jazz and North Indian classical music in a style that crosses borders. Some related moods include **Harry Manx, Kelly Joe Phelps, Ry Cooder & Vishwa Mohan Bhatt**.

Debut CD on the charts:

- !earshot-online** top 20 Jazz chart for 2010
- #1 – !earshot -online** weekly Jazz chart – June 8, 2010
- #2 – ChartAttack** weekly Jazz/Blues chart – June 15, 2010
- #3 – Exclaim!** magazine monthly Jazz chart – July 2010

"The Arboreal Quartet may seem to be following a path trod prior by Ry Cooder and V. M. Bhatt's A Meeting By The River .. In this writer's opinion that watermark is here surpassed."
- **Matt Lee, The Big Takeover** (Brooklyn, NY)

"The music is in no hurry, but ebbs and flows, carrying the listener to that rare place of quiet listening, uncovering graceful melodies along the way."
- **Kirk Albrecht, Minor7th.com** (Irwin, PA)

"It's unbelievable the different musical influences that [John] manages to make shine in this quartet's music."
- **Laurie Brown, The Signal, CBC Radio 2** (Toronto, ON)

**NEXT LIVE PERFORMANCE: Wednesday February 2, 2011 – Casa del Popolo
4873 St Laurent, Montréal, QC H2T 1R6 (514) 284-3804. \$8 / doors at 8:30pm**