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Jazz Singers Tessa Souter, Melissa Morgan Shine in Spotlight

April 16, 2010 — Ann Arbor, Mich. — Two up and coming jazz vocalists who have made it on the New York jazz scene each make their appearance at **Kerrytown Concert House** this May. Tessa Souter, praised for her “crystal clear voice and diamond cut phrasing” (Philadelphia Inquirer), combines jazz with the soul and passion of flamenco, Indian and Middle Eastern music. Melissa Morgan is a newcomer with an old-school pedigree, drawing influences from the great jazz divas: Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson.

Tessa Souter — Saturday, May 15 at 8 p.m.

Melissa Morgan — Saturday, May 29 at 8 p.m.

New York-based vocalist, composer, and lyricist Souter has made quite a name for herself in the last decade. Her first CD, “Listen Love,” won critical raves for her “direct, soulful sound” (Village Voice). Her sophomore release, "Nights of Key Largo," recorded on Venus, won the coveted Gold Disc award in Swing Journal in 2009. A latecomer to professional singing, Souter made her professional debut in 1999, developing into a phenomenal live performer. Souter has sold out a range of venues, including the Blue Note, the Edinburgh Jazz Festival in England, and the Union of Composers Club in Moscow. Jason Ennis (guitar), Kurt Krahnke (bass), Sean Dobbins (drums) join her for her concert at Kerrytown Concert House.

Melissa Morgan’s earliest exposure to jazz was from her grandmother’s record collection, which has profoundly shaped her sound even two decades later. Morgan has been a regular performer at some of New York’s top jazz clubs such as Cleopatra’s Needle, Flute and St. Nick’s Pub. In 2004, she was named a semi-finalist in the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition in Washington D.C. Morgan is now pursuing a recording career in Los Angeles, expanding her West Coast audiences. Her May 29 appearance at the Concert House includes bassist Kurt Krahnke as well as Randy Napoleon, a New York-based jazz guitarist who returns to his native Ann Arbor for this performance.

About Kerrytown Concert House

The Kerrytown Concert House is an arts organization focused on community engagement and bringing fine artists and their audiences together. An intimate 110-seat venue, the Concert House has diverse offerings in a wide range of musical styles, while rotating art exhibits are displayed on the walls of the house. Located in the Kerrytown district of Ann Arbor, Mich., KCH is available to the community, including educators, students and organizations for recitals, meetings and events. In addition, it is home to the internationally acclaimed festival Edgefest, and is a presenter of artists of the highest artistic excellence. Kerrytown Concert House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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