

L'Orchestre de Contrebasses

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For Immediate Release:

L'Orchestre de Contrebasses Performs in New York, Starting Thanksgiving 2008.

Six Masters. One instrument. Limitless possibilities.

New York, NY April 30, 2008-- L'Orchestre de Contrebasses returns to New York for the first time in more than a decade with ***Bass, Bass, Bass, Bass and Bass***, their newest offering. Performances will take place at the Connelly Theatre (220 East 4th Street, New York, NY) at 8pm from November 27th to December 21st (Tues.-Sun.). Families are invited to attend Bass Wishes, L'Orchestre's children's show, on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00pm with special performances over the Thanksgiving holiday (Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 27 -28). Unique in its kind, L'Orchestre de Contrebasses is an ensemble of six master musicians all wielding the same instrument—the double bass. This deceptively simple formula yields a presentation that is equal parts musical wizardry and magical choreography, an incomparable musical experience that is as hard to resist as it is to classify.

The six members of L'Orchestre de Contrebasses—Xavier Lugué, Etienne Roumanet, Olivier Moret, Yves Torchinsky, Jean-Philippe Viret, and Christian Gentet—represent Paris' best contemporary, jazz and classical bassists. On stage together, they exclusively perform original works composed by the group themselves, drawing from their diverse musical roots. The result is a unique sound that includes elements of classical, contemporary, jazz, world and rock music. Jazz Times says of them, "The exquisite sounds emanating from the six bassists and their wooden companions confirm the feelings of bass lovers that the bass should rightly be front and center. Playing arco, pizzicato and with a little wood slapping, these players create a richness and depth of sound that is lacking not at all from the absence of other instruments. It's a must for anyone into the bass, and for those of you who aren't, it's time to get with the program!"

But the show does not end with your ears. This is not just a concert; it is musical theatre. Their act follows a trail blazed by the improvisational work of Carlos Zingaro, the music theatre of Georges Apherdis and the innovative theatrics of the Blue Man Group. They do not simply play their basses; they celebrate the bass; they play with the bass. In their hands, this historically ridiculed instrument is reinvented. The bass has traditionally played a comic role. In the West Indies, it's called the "mummy pig;" in many folk-music presentations, a child was hidden inside to sing in unison with the bass. And as

recently as the last century, bass players were expected to sweep the hall after rehearsals. Basses are awkwardly large, they are fragile and they are shy, but in this show they are the belle of the ball. L'Orchestre's performances employ lighting and movement to create a full sensory experience that uses the bass for drama, comedy, and to tackle large philosophical ideas. Their girth is celebrated and their essential grace is accentuated as they are danced across the stage.

L'Orchestre de Contrebasses presents *Bass, Bass, Bass, Bass and Bass* at the Connolly Theater, 220 East 4th Street, New York, NY. Performances are every night at 8pm, Tuesday through Sunday, from November 27th to December 21st. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for Students) and are available through SmartTix (www.smarttix.com). Kids aged 4 to 8 and their parents are invited to L'Orchestre's children's show, *Bass Wishes*, on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00pm (additional showings over the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 27th and Friday November 28th). Tickets for these shows are \$10. For more information on L'Orchestre de Contrebasses, and clips of actual performances, please visit their website (www.musicguild.com/odbc/index.php) or contact Sam Finlay of WolfTone Marketing at 917-842-8375 or by emailing sam.finlay@wolftonemarketing.com or sam.finlay@gmail.com.