

MainStage

MANAGEMENT INC.

Tanya Tagaq (Cambridge Bay, NU)

“Tanya is directly musically in touch with something that is almost a ghost. To me, it is something that is so special and so much a part of the earth and the land and the environment” – David Harrington, Kronos Quartet

‘Indescribable’ is not an appropriate word to begin an artist’s bio, nor is it suitable as a description of a musician. The problem is this: when Tanya Tagaq’s music fills your ears, she is genuinely one of those rare artists whose sounds and styles are truly groundbreaking. ‘Inuit throat singer’ is one part of her sonic quotient. So are descriptions like ‘orchestral’ ‘hip-hop-infused’ and ‘primal’...but these words are not usually used collectively. In the case of Tagaq, however – they are.

So much has happened to Tagaq since the release of her debut CD *Sinaa* (meaning ‘edge’ in her ancestral language of Inuktitut) in 2005. The Nunavut-born singer has not just attracted the attention of some of the world’s most groundbreaking artists, they have invited her to participate on their own musical projects, not just singularly, but repeatedly. Tanya has recently recorded once again with Björk (specifically on the soundtrack for the Matthew Barney film *Drawing Restraint 9*) having already appeared on Björk’s *Medúlla* CD in 2004 and accompanied her on the *Vespertine* tour. In 2005, another monumental collaborative project came to fruition when the Kronos Quartet invited Tanya to participate on a project aptly titled *Nunavut*, which has been performed at select venues across North America, from its January 2006 debut at the Chan Centre in Vancouver, BC through to New York’s Carnegie Hall. Acclaim and respect has followed Tagaq on her solo ventures as well: both *Sinaa* and *Auk / Blood* were nominated for a Juno Award (Best Aboriginal Recording) and (Best Instrumental Recording) Both recordings won in several categories at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, including Best Female Artist.

Tanya’s most recent project is the stunning video “*Tungijuuq*” on which she collaborated with Jesse Zubot and Montreal filmmakers Felix Lajeunesse and Paul Raphael premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival and the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. In 2009 Tanya also narrated and provided music for the National Film Board documentary, *This Land*.

Jean Martin (Toronto, ON)

" Martin jungles up the atmosphere with his tribal sounding rhythms, his approach is subtle and unpredictable" Stew Slater - See Magazine, Edmonton

" Meticulously Inventive playing...imaginative...fascinating" Mark Miller - Globe and Mail

Award winning musician and producer Jean Martin is well on his way to becoming a Canadian jazz legend. Along with recording over ten albums with artists such as, Juno award winner DD Jackson and Chelsea Bridge, the drummer has put in his time on the road picking up awards along the way (Freddy Stone Award for leadership and excellence, National Jazz Awards Best Drummer nomination). Martin has extensively toured Canadian jazz festivals, the United States (Fez Jazz Club in New York, Washington DC Jazz Fest) as well as international locations (Molda, Maubeuge and Rouen International Jazz Festivals).

Martin has appeared on the TFO and BRAVO TV jazz special DUOS where he performed improvisations with National Jazz Awards winner Kevin Turcotte and participated in a Jazz Opera performed at the 10th Annual Jazz Festival in Guelph, Ontario. He currently plays with groups Barnyard Drama, Idiolalla, Laconnor, Jean Martin Trio and now Tanya Tagaq.

Jesse Zubot (Vancouver, BC)

"His inspired, out-there string work complements Tagaq's gripping vocals perfectly." - Montreal Mirror

"Violinist Jesse Zubot's exploratory strings draw circles around her trademark grunts, buzzes, moans and gasps, lending a backbone to this eerily compelling collection..." - NOW Magazine (Toronto)

Jesse is a founding member of the acoustic-roots ensemble 'Zubot & Dawson'. Zubot is also a member of the Great Uncles of the Revolution which includes well-known Toronto bassist Andrew Downing and trumpeter Kevin Turcotte. Both of these recording acts are Juno Award winners. Recently, Jesse has delved heavily into the world of creative & improvised music. In the past few years he has performed and recorded with the likes of Eugene Chadbourne, Evan Parker, Secret Mommy, Torsten Muller, Dave Douglas, Peggy Lee, Orkestra Rova, Fred Frith, Nels Cline, Henry Kaiser and recently Tanya Tagaq. In 2005, Jesse launched a new label, DRIP AUDIO. (www.dripaudio.com)