

Press Release/Event Announcement:

**Hamilton Launch of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium feat. The Vertical Squirrels**

**Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm, Artword Artbar, 15 Colbourne St., Hamilton.**

We are excited to announce the first-ever festival launch in Hamilton of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium. Considered among the most visionary musical events in Canada, the Guelph Jazz Festival presents innovative jazz and creative improvised music, fostering alternative ways of hearing and seeing the world. A winner of the Lieutenant-Governor's Award and The Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts, the festival has been called "An enduring gem on Canada's cultural landscape" by DownBeat magazine.

This year, we are pleased to celebrate an exclusive launch of the festival programming at the Artword Artbar in Hamilton featuring the acclaimed Canadian free improvisation musical collective, The Vertical Squirrels. Dedicated to unique one-off events, fully improvised concerts, and hybrid musical encounters, the Vertical Squirrels have been described as an "unclassifiable blast of fresh air" by Montreal Mirror critic Lawrence Joseph who picked their debut album, *Hold True*, as one of the top ten albums released in 2010.

This special event and preview of this year's Guelph Jazz Festival programming will be held at the Artword Artbar on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 3 pm. Admission is free. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase at the venue. Artistic Director Ajay Heble will present a preview of this year's headline artists and unique programming. The 2012 Guelph Jazz Festival takes place September 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> in Guelph, Ontario.

For more information please visit [www.guelphjazzfestival.com](http://www.guelphjazzfestival.com), [www.artword.net/artbar](http://www.artword.net/artbar), or [www.verticalsquirrels.com](http://www.verticalsquirrels.com). Questions and inquiries can be sent to Theresa Shelton, Marketing Manager at the Guelph Jazz Festival, at <[marketing@guelphjazzfestival.com](mailto:marketing@guelphjazzfestival.com)>, or Greg Fenton, Hamilton Event Coordinator, at <[fentong@mcmaster.ca](mailto:fentong@mcmaster.ca)>.



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