



CONFERENCE
ON "THE HISTORY OF JAZZ, FROM 1889"
CONCERT OF THE STAFFORD JAMES STRING PROJECT

**AN ORIGINAL WAY TO CONCLUDE A SEMINAR
OR TO OFFER A CULTURAL AND UNFORGETTABLE MUSICAL MOMENT
TO YOUR EMPLOYEES AND/OR TO YOUR CLIENTS**

It is at the request of one of his fans, Human Resource Director of a large international French company, that **Stafford James** created the concept of the conference-concert package. It was received with such success by the Senior Executives of the company that he decided to pursue the experience and to present it to other large companies for the cultural betterment of their senior executives and/or to entertain their clients and prospective clientele.

The Artist

At the pinnacle of a career spreading over forty years, part of which in the company of some of the greatest names in the world of Jazz, **Stafford James** took his art to a form of unique and personal expression which carries the print of a lifetime experience.

Musician and composer born in Evanston, a suburb of metropolitan Chicago, Illinois, **Stafford James** started by playing music at 6 years of age with the violin. There being one obstacle at the time in that he was and still is left-handed. What would seem to be a handicap turns out to be an advantage in later years as he would accept the challenge posed by society and learn to play other instruments from a right-handed perspective. For him, challenges have always had to be met head-on and stereotypes superseded.

Reflection

When one looks at the evolution of the career of an artist, regardless of genre, one element will stand out most and that is the life experience of the artist within the genre which, ultimately, allow to arrive to the point of self-expression.

For example, when one looks at a painting by Picasso in his younger years, one can see his progression to the later years and can feel a certain confidence in the maturing process that develops with time. This far exceeds whether one likes the style as opposed to what one sees in the evolutionary process of the artist.

This can indeed be seen in the evolutionary process of Bassist/Composer **Stafford James**. His vision of the path he had to follow was always clear but he realised very early in life that to attain his goal he would have to understand the history of his origins and that of the music to arrive to the point of writing his own.

The Conference

Presented by **Stafford James**, in English or in French, the one-hour conference on the “**History of Jazz from 1889**” is given in conjunction with slides, music and video illustrations and spans the evolutionary process of this great art from its humble beginnings.

The Music

The **Stafford James Project** was formed in 1988 with the vision of securing a place for the contrabass as a strong lead melodic voice in various instrumental configurations, for which **Stafford James** composes all of the music that makes this a reality. With time the Project has grown to where it now tours throughout Europe and the United States.

The **Stafford James String Project** proposed with this package is a 7-piece ensemble consisting of **Stafford James** as contrabass soloist performing with the bow and accompanied by another bassist to supply the rhythm, a string quartet (2 violins, viola and cello) and drums.

Because of the uniqueness of the musical presentation with the contrabass as the lead melodic voice, the opportunity to share with those attending the conference through a close-up question and answer period is given solely after the historical presentation and concert .

For enquiry and bookings please contact:

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Tariffs upon request

To know more about **Stafford James**' career or to listen to his music, please visit his very documented website: www.staffordjames.com