



For Immediate Release

## **Luminato Welcomes Nitin Sawhney as 2008 Artist in Residence**

### ***A Throw of Dice* at Molson Amphitheatre Features Nitin and his Band Along with Members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra**

TORONTO, {May 5, 2008} – As part of the 2008 Festival, Luminato – Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity announces an artistic residency with composer and cultural prodigy Nitin Sawhney. Over the course of the 10-day Festival, Sawhney introduces Toronto audiences to a body of work that illustrates his range as an artist. The residency features his use of music in film, video games and in live performance.

With seven studio albums and more than 40 film scores behind him, this world-class producer, songwriter, DJ, multi-instrumentalist, orchestral composer, and cultural pioneer continues to redefine the contemporary music scene.

“Music embraces not only the spirit of communication but also of collaboration. This year’s Luminato Festival presents an exciting opportunity to smash down barriers of perception and cross-fertilise artistic expression from club culture to classical orchestration, video game workshops to historical film archives and to interact through conversations with Artistic Directors from across the world,” said Nitin Sawhney. “The Luminato Festival is not only specific to Toronto or Canada but is an extension of our desire to engage on a global level with some of the most cutting edge and exciting artists around today. Put simply, I can’t wait.”

**Nitin Sawhney’s Artistic Residency includes:**

#### ***A THROW OF DICE***

In 2006, Nitin Sawhney was commissioned by the British Film Institute (BFI) to compose a new orchestral score for the 1929 Indian silent classic film *A Throw of Dice*. On Friday, June 13, the film will be shown on a giant screen at the Molson Amphitheatre accompanied live by members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Sawhney, and his band: Aref Durvesh on tabla, Ashwin Srinivasan on flute, and vocalists Tina Grace and Reena Bhardwajl.

Inspired by an episode from the *Mahabharata*, the great Hindu epic of ancient India, *A Throw of Dice* is a tale of love and hazard, where two neighbouring kings are pitted against each other, risking their kingdoms and the woman they both love, in a fateful game of dice. Sawhney describes the film as “A cross between Chaplin, Cecil B. DeMille and an early Bollywood movie.”

Almost 80 years after the film’s first release, Sawhney’s lyrical and evocative score, steeped in both Western and South Asian musical traditions, brilliantly transforms the digitally restored silent classic into a fresh and engaging artistic experience.

For little more than the price of a movie, audiences will be treated to a visual and aural spectacle that integrates classic silent film, musicians and singers accompanied by a live symphony orchestra in a striking, open-air venue.

*A Throw of Dice* is produced in association with Masala! Mehndi! Masti! The film is a BFI release in association with Fandango srl and Silent Music.

Friday, June 13, 9:30 p.m., Molson Amphitheatre, 909 Lakeshore Blvd West.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at [www.luminato.com](http://www.luminato.com)

## **CLUB NIGHT**

On the closing Saturday of the Festival, Sawhney works the dance floor as he spins at the eclectic, ever-evolving dance club, Revival. He will be joined by musicians Aref Durvesh on Tabla and Ashwin Srinivasan on flute. Nitin’s sets are comprised of sounds ranging from Latin house, Asian breaks, and drum n’ bass (DnB).

Opening and closing for Sawhney are Version Xcursion, DJs Sassa 'le and Aram Scaram, bringing the flavours of early trip hop, tabla and string arrangements, and DnB. For a preview, Version Xcursion spin live every Saturday 8-10pm on CKLN 88.1FM. [www.versionxcursion.com](http://www.versionxcursion.com) and [www.myspace.com/vxradio](http://www.myspace.com/vxradio)

Saturday June 14, 10:30 p.m. Revival, 783 College St. \$15 at the door.

## **GAMES AND FILM COMPOSITION WORKSHOP**

Sawhney kicks off his residency with a video game scoring workshop at the Gladstone Hotel. Having recently composed the stirring music for one of the top selling PS3 titles of 2007, *Heavenly Sword*, Sawhney will offer insight into how a composer approaches scoring a game and how this approach differs from other mediums.

Luminato has teamed up with Toronto-based gaming organization dorkArmy to present this event. Following the discussion, participants will be able to face off for *Heavenly Sword* sessions using multiple gaming stations.

Wednesday, June 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W.  
Produced in association with dorkArmy.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at [www.luminato.com](http://www.luminato.com)

## **ILLUMINATIONS**

The Luminato *Illuminations* program is a series of lectures, panels and public workshops intended to complement and enrich the Festival-going experience. Nitin Sawhney will participate in two Illuminations programs:

### **The Luminato Reel**

The Channel 4 feature film version of Tim Supple's re-imagined *Twelfth Night*, scored by Nitin Sawhney, opens *The Luminato Reel* series. This film links two Festival artists – Supple, director of the internationally acclaimed South Asian production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Nitin Sawhney. Sawhney will participate in a Q&A following the June 8 screening.

June 7, 2:00 p.m.; June 8, 7:30 p.m. National Film Board Mediatheque, John Spotton Theatre, 150 John St. FREE.

### **South Asian Expressions: East Meets West**

A panel of internationally renowned artists shares its thoughts on one of the most fruitful relationships ever to have arisen between two cultures half a world apart.

The influence of South Asian artistic expression on the culture of the West has become inestimable, and shows no signs of abating. This influence is apparent in music and cinema, in literature and dance – with British director Tim Supple's multilingual, multidisciplinary re-imagining of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* being a quintessential example of this intermingling of cultures.

Supple will be joined by Sawhney, director Charles Roy, who is currently preparing a production of the great Indian classic *Shakuntala*, and Indian-Canadian filmmaker Deepa Mehta, director of the acclaimed cinematic trilogy *Fire, Earth and Water*. The discussion is moderated by Luminato's Curator of Literary Programming, Devyani Saltzman.

Tuesday, June 10, 7:00 p.m., Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley Street. FREE.

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### ABOUT LUMINATO

For 10 extraordinary days in June, the vibrant city of Toronto's stages, streets and public spaces are illuminated with arts and creativity. Luminato is an annual multidisciplinary celebration of theatre, dance, classical and contemporary music, film, literature, visual arts, design and more. **Luminato 2008 is June 6-15.**

For more information on both free and ticketed Luminato events, including dates, locations and schedules, visit [www.luminato.com](http://www.luminato.com). Tickets are available through all Ticketmaster outlets (call 416-872-1111 or visit [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)).

The Festival's first donors, called Founding Luminaries, were vital to the visioning and success of the inaugural Festival and establishing a world-class annual celebration of arts, culture and creativity. The Festival's Luminaries ensure Luminato continues to present Canadian and World premieres, innovative new work and unexpected collaborations that result in memorable moments of artistic excellence.

Luminato gratefully acknowledges the generous support and vision of its Luminaries; corporate sponsors, particularly our presenting sponsor, L'Oréal; our dedicated government partners, especially the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, and other supporters.

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