

# Jazz Beyond Borders

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact: Paula Phillips 514-816-8423 or  
Sean Johnson 203-770-8505**

## **Avalon Hosts World-Traveled Guitarist Juanito Pascual: Warm Up at this Valentine Weekend Concert**

The February 17 Valentine Weekend event at the Avalon Theatre is meant for singles, couples families, and friends—no date required. Bring anyone you love (just leave Fido at home) as Flamenco-themed jazz and rock music turns up the heat in the Stoltz Listening Room.

The concert features the world-traveled Juanito Pascual New Flamenco Trio. The group creates a unique world music experience, fusing traditional Spanish Flamenco with elements of jazz, pop, and rock music, and performing with virtuosity and passion.

A Minnesota native, guitarist Juanito Pascual has logged countless miles in a career that has taken him from the streets of Madrid to the hallowed halls of the New England Conservatory and on to concert stages around the world. Numerous appearances in film, television, and radio have further widened his audience. Performing with him are Colombian-born percussionist Tupac Mantilla and New England bassist Brad Barrett. Their distinct musical backgrounds and powerful personal chemistry lead to a spellbinding performance.

Pascual's music is an organic blend of traditional and contemporary flamenco with influences ranging from Jimi Hendrix and the Grateful Dead to Miles Davis and J.S. Bach. (Visit [juanitopascual.com](http://juanitopascual.com) to hear a unique treatment of the Beatles' tune "While My Guitar Gently Weeps.") Also on the program are pieces by Jimi Hendrix, Prince, and Pascual himself.

Praised as a virtuoso guitarist and composer, the Minnesota native was called by NPR "one of the hottest flamenco guitarists in recent years" and "a rising star of the Spanish guitar form" by *The Boston Globe*. As a youth, he went to Spain to study with the flamenco masters he idolized. Pascual's most recent honor is performing much of the music in the film *Call Me Francis*, shown on Netflix after an earlier theatrical release. (Spanish pianist Arturo Cardelús composed the score.) Pascual made his on-screen debut in a cameo performance alongside Steve Martin and Andy Garcia in the 2009 film *Pink Panther 2*.

Juanito Pascual has toured widely since the 2003 release of his debut solo recording *Cosas en Comun*, becoming a respected voice in flamenco music. He has performed at the Panama Jazz Festival, the Eurojazz Festival in Mexico City, the Halifax Jazz Festival in Nova Scotia, and Spain's Festival de Jazz de Tortosa. In the States, he has played the Tanglewood Jazz Festival, New York's Blue Note Jazz Club, Blues Alley, Dakota, Regattabar, and countless concert halls. He holds a bachelor of music degree in contemporary improvisation from the New England Conservatory, where he directed the summer flamenco institute for five years. His book *The Total Flamenco Handbook* (with accompanying CD) was published by Alfred Press in 2011. He released *Language of the Heart* in 2009 and a self-titled album in 2014. A fourth recording is in the works.

Internationally acclaimed, Grammy-nominated percussionist Tupac Mantilla is one of the most versatile and creative artists of his generation. A performer and educator, he headlines solo concerts and performs with other ensembles. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Kennedy Center as well as the Montreal, North Sea, Perugia, Montreux, Gent, Nice, Tanglewood, and Newport Jazz Festivals plus Harvard University, Stanford University, and Berklee College of Music. He holds a master of music honors degree from the New England Conservatory. Versatile New England bassist Brad Barrett performs in many musical genres. He has toured the Americas, Europe, and Asia and is currently pursuing a PhD at the New England Conservatory.

The concert takes place in the Stoltz Listening Room at The Avalon Theatre at 40 East Dover Street in Easton, Maryland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Get them from <https://tickets.avalontheatre.com>. (The telephone number is 410-822-7299.)

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**P. O. Box 172 Davidsonville, MD 21035 USA [www.jazzbeyondborders.com](http://www.jazzbeyondborders.com)**