



PAT METHENY'S *ORCHESTRION* TO BE RELEASED JANUARY 25, 2010

ACCLAIMED ARTIST REDEFINES SOLO PERFORMANCE WITH ALBUM AND 41-DATE EUROPEAN TOUR

Seventeen-time Grammy Award-winner **Pat Metheny** once again explores new territory with his forthcoming project, *Orchestrion*. Following the album's January 25th release on **Nonesuch Records** (February 16 on vinyl), the genre-shattering guitarist/composer will embark on an extensive solo tour in Europe and the US, including a UK date at London's **Barbican** on **February 10th**.

Orchestrion brings a musical idea from the late 19th and early 20th centuries - a large mechanical multi-instrument device that utilises actual orchestral instruments of various types, called an "orchestrion" - to the technologies of today. Metheny's concept includes a large ensemble of acoustic instruments - including several pianos, drum kit, marimbas, "guitar-bots", dozens of percussion instruments and even cabinets of carefully tuned bottles. Through Metheny's guitar and compositional mind, five new original pieces showcase the instruments as they are struck, plucked, and otherwise played via the technology of solenoid switches and pneumatics. Metheny worked for months with a brilliant team of scientists and engineers to develop and assemble the "New Orchestrion" for this project.

"As the instruments started to trickle in from the various inventors," Metheny says, "the experience of writing for them and figuring out what might be possible with them provided a self-imposed challenge that proved to be difficult and time-consuming, but absolutely exhilarating. I am excited to share this project. If nothing else, this has turned out to be something unique. And in the process of developing all this music and these instruments and discovering what they can do and what they are good at, I learned so much. It feels like progress and has gotten some notes out of me that I didn't know were there. But the surprise was just how far I was able to go with it all. Within this new environment, I found something in there that took me to some new places."

Over the course of more than three decades, guitarist Pat Metheny has set himself apart from the jazz mainstream, expanding and blurring boundaries and musical styles. His record-setting body of work includes seventeen Grammy Awards in twelve separate categories; a series of influential trio recordings; award winning solo albums; scores for hit Hollywood motion pictures; and collaborations and duets with major artists such as Ornette Coleman, Steve Reich, Charlie Haden, Brad Mehldau, and many others. His band, the Pat Metheny Group, founded in 1977, is the only ensemble in history to win Grammys for seven consecutive releases.

Visit the official Pat Metheny website: www.patmetheny.com

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