



Cabaret Exchange

“Raising the Bar on All Things Cabaret”

Lua Hadar with TWIST

Written by Jonathan Farrell
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Vocalist Lua Hadar with TWIST - crossing lines of genre, style and language

The sold-out San Francisco Symphony performances of Pink Martini (and many others around the country) are evidence of the success the popular Portland-based group has had in bringing an international repertoire to the pop stage, and in crossing over lines of genre, style and language.



LUA HADAR

In San Francisco, the crossover phenomenon is alive and well, with its own twist. TWIST, the genre-bending band fronted by multi-lingual vocalist Lua Hadar, has been growing for almost a year, but in fact, Hadar's been at it most of her life.

According to Wikipedia, the term "crossover" has sometimes been used to describe music that deliberately mixes genres, whether or not this music proves to be popular with a mass audience. "Fusion" is a more common term for this phenomenon.

This month, Hadar and her new genre-bending band, TWIST, will stir up audiences with hot Latin rhythms, sexy Italian ballads, funk à la Français, and jazz from The Great American Songbook - on October 12 at Anna's Jazz Island in Berkeley, on October 18 at The Octavia Lounge in San Francisco, and on October 28 at Hollywood's M Bar Supper Club. These evenings will feature an original mix of songs, from well-known

jazz tunes done in unexpected ways, to international songs – both familiar and not – performed in French, Spanish or Italian.

“I'm thrilled to finally fuse my musical influences together with TWIST,” says Hadar. “With this band, I can do anything – samba to swing, bossa nova to jazz waltz. It's so exciting - I think the audience will jump out of their seats.” The eclectic choices reflect Hadar's love for languages and for a wide range of musical styles. In the past year alone, she has appeared at venues as varied as San Francisco's Jazz at Pearl's, The Plush Room, and with Bay Area theatre companies 42nd Street Moon and Theatretworks, as well as at Hollywood's Gardenia Supper

Club. Hadar's been building her "jazz without borders" sound for about a year, peppering the fresh jazz sets with quirky stories and a playful dose of cabaret showmanship.

In addition to Pink Martini, other singers of international fame have helped to create a global awareness that an audience's taste may be broad enough to accommodate a generous plateful of musical genres from one singer, and that the well-trained voice can adapt and color itself to the style of the song. Like Pink Martini's China Forbes, vocalists such as Josh Groban and Andrea Bocelli move freely from classical to pop, stopping wherever they wish in between.

Groban says he is able to look up to anyone, musically, who has pushed the boundaries and stepped outside of the box. His genres are listed as classical, easy listening, pop, gospel, operatic pop, vocal and opera.



"The genesis of TWIST really began years ago," says Hadar. "I've sung music ranging in genre from classical to jazz to musical theatre, Italian pop, French cabaret, and so on. Now it's become a fusion; the boundaries have fallen away. We turn a musical theatre ballad into a double-time samba, we do Night & Day as a funk tune in French, we add jazz chords to Italian pop ballads. I'm grateful to the popularity of Pink Martini for bringing the audience's appreciation to a mix of musical genres, and for making it hip."

TWIST's sound is fused around a jazz idiom, under the musical direction of jazz pianist and composer Jason Martineau. TWIST has evolved from trio to quartet (with the addition of reeds) and now comes into its own as a quintet with the addition of Latin percussion to the groove in the San Francisco Bay Area appearances. Martineau, music director for both Hadar's 2005 CD and her acclaimed cabaret show, plays in styles ranging from jazz to Indian ragas to rock. Luahadar wraps her agile voice around it all, with elegance, effervescence, and a TWIST.

Oct 12, Anna's Jazz Island, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, **3 sets begin at 8 pm**, \$12 cover, Resv 510-841-JAZZ, www.annasjazzisland.com.

Oct 18, Octavia Lounge, 1772 Market St., San Francisco, **3 sets begin at 7:30**, \$15 cover, Resv 415-863-3516, www.octavialounge.com.

Oct 28 at M Bar, 1253 North Vine Street (Fountain & Vine Plaza) in Hollywood. Ph: 323.856.0036, \$10 food min. Doors: 6:30, **Show: 7:30, ADVANCE ONLINE TICKETS: \$15 at www.BrownPaperTickets.com/event/20198 or 1-800-838-3006.** Tickets as available at the door: \$20 cash. Club info: www.myspace.com/mbarhollywood.

VIDEO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC_VrXYnRNI

WEBSITE: www.luahadar.com

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT: www.sonicbids.com/luahadar

CD: www.cdbaby.com/luahadar, on iTunes and many online vendors