

WORLD MUSIC ARTIST CROSSES LINE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND MODERN SOUNDS



VANCOUVER, BC – Vancouver audiences are in for a rare treat when part harmonica wizard and part rhythmic explorer, Harper (www.harper.biz) brings his cross mix of rock, blues, soul, and world music to The Yale on Wednesday, March 17.

The fiery artist who has captivated audiences with his virtuoso harp performances, distinctive instrumentation and deeply soulful grooves has carved a niche for himself in the world of roots music. Born in the United Kingdom, Harper was first introduced to the instrument when his family relocated to Perth in Western Australia. Deemed one of the most isolated cities in the world, Perth boasted a thriving blues and roots community, which became the catalyst for the artist's musical exploration.

The compelling songwriter incorporates the didgeridoo, a vital part of his Australian indigenous culture with infectious modern percussive rhythms, successfully crossing the line between traditional and modern sounds. Harper released six albums to great acclaim in his homeland including *TEARS OF ICE* in 1994, *YESTERDAY IS OVER* in 1996, *LIVE AT THE SOUP KITCHEN* in 1997, *GLASS ON THE STEPPING STONE* in 2000, *LIVE AT ST. ANDREW'S* in 2001, and *WAY DOWN DEEP INSIDE* in 2003, which garnered two harmonica awards and *ALBUM OF THE YEAR* honor from US Magazine's Guide for the Best of the Blues Harmonicas & Beyond. His prolific recording career and memorable on stage performances in overseas countries such as Canada, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Singapore eventually caught the attention of U.S. label Blind Pig Records. Following an enthusiastic response from American audiences, Harper relocated to the United States where his animated shows have been well received throughout blues and world music festivals.

His 2005 American debut *DOWN TO THE RHYTHM* garnered accolades from the press for its unique sound, virtuoso performances and compositional skill. "Harper is a crack harp player, and he plays the instrument with both speed and efficiency, but it would be a mistake to pigeonhole Harper as just an impressive instrumentalist," boasted All Music Guide. Blues Wax noted, "There is much to enjoy here: clever songwriting, top-notch guitar, powerful rhythms, and some great Harper harp!" The multi-award winning artist's latest release *DAY BY DAY* showcases the results of steady touring over the past several years with unparalleled songwriting. Distorted guitars blend with the unique drone of the didgeridoo to create raw yet eerie sonic textures that are simultaneously primal and contemporary. Complementing the sound are Harper's compelling lyrics that portray personal struggles and spiritual discovery with modern relevance and topicality.

Admission to Harper is \$10 at the door. Show begins at 9:30pm. For more information on this and other upcoming Yale events, call 604-681-9253 or visit www.theyale.ca. The Yale is conveniently located at 1300 Granville Street in downtown Vancouver.

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