

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA

CAP UCLA Presents Armenian Jazz Ensemble MVF Band

Thursday, February 23 at 8 pm in Royce Hall



“Dynamic, Exhilarating, Haunting New Armenian Sounds. . .”
— New York Music Daily

[LOS ANGELES – January 27, 2023] [UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance \(CAP UCLA\)](#) presents Armenia's leading folk jazz and ethno-fusion ensemble **MVF Band** performing songs from their latest album, *Nightology*, along with other repertory on Thursday, February 23 at 8 pm in Royce Hall. Tickets are \$38 and are available now at cap.ucla.edu, 310-825-2101 and the UCLA Central Ticket Office.

Carved from a single block of mulberry wood, the long-necked tar has been the faithful string instrument companion of generations of Armenian bards. It's found a new life as a front-and-center jazz voice, thanks to the innovators of MVF Band (short for Miqayel Voskanyan

and Friends). Sometimes as sharp and percussive as a banjo, sometimes subtle and soft-spoken, in the capable hands of band leader and singer Voskanyan, the tar speaks powerfully of contemporary life's struggles and joys.

Centering the eleven-string tar, Miqayel Voskanyan's quintet draws on polyphonic roots, global rhythms, funk and jazz's tight grooves and improvisational play. MVF Band has spent the last decade exploring new directions in Armenian music and perfecting their on-stage connection. Moving across genres, they have played major jazz festivals around eastern Europe and central Asia, represented Armenia at music industry events like MIDEM in France, and performed at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and the Ford Theatre in Los Angeles, CA. Known for intertwining ancient folk idioms with progressive arrangements and original compositions, MVF Band challenges conventional thinking about the cross pollination of eastern and western sounds and genres.

MVF Band is part of Center Stage, a public diplomacy initiative of the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with funding provided by the US government, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the US Regional Arts Organizations. General management is provided by Lisa Booth Management Inc.

The CAP UCLA 2023 spring programs continue on March 3-4 with Shamel Pitts' *Touch of RED*.

ARTISTS:

Miqayel Voskanyan: Tar and Vocals
Davit Melkonyan: Alto/Soprano Saxophones
Arman Peshtmaljyan: Keyboards
Gurgen Ghazaryan: Bass
Movses Ghazaryan: Drums

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA presents

[MVF Band](#)

Thursday, February 23 at 8 pm
Royce Hall, UCLA
10745 Dickson Ct, Los Angeles, CA 90095
Tickets are \$38.

Artist's Website: [MVF Band](#)

ABOUT CAP UCLA

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](#) (CAP UCLA) is the public-facing research and presenting organization for the performing arts at the University of California, Los Angeles—one of the world's leading public research universities. We are housed within the UCLA School of the Arts & Architecture along with the Hammer and Fowler museums. The central pursuit of our work as an organization is to sustain the diversity of contemporary performing artists while celebrating their contributions to culture. We acknowledge, amplify and support artists through major presentations, commissions and creative development initiatives. Our programs offer audiences a direct connection to the ideas, perspectives and concerns of living artists. Through the lens of dance, theater, music, literary arts, digital media arts and

collaborative disciplines, informed by diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, artists and audiences come together in our theaters and public spaces to explore new ways of seeing that expands our understanding of the world we live in now.

Like CAP UCLA on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). #CAPUCLA

###

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Hanya Bruner
The ACE Agency
hanya@theaceagency.com

Katri Randall
The ACE Agency
katri@theaceagency.com

IMAGES: Images of MVF Band are available for download [here](#).