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Pavlo Simtikidis Forms Greek – Canadian Guitar Trio for New Performance

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PAVLO SIMTIKIDIS, Rik Emmett and Oscar Lopez bring their guitars to the Sid Williams Theatre on March 9

An amazing guitar trio has been born: Pavlo Simtikidis, Rik Emmett and Oscar Lopez are an incredible chemistry of music united by friendship and talent.

To the guitar world, be prepared to have your socks blown off.

Going to see Simtikidis play is a bit of a party. You can hear the audience hoot and holler during his live performances, which he refers to as a two-hour Mediterranean escape.

Sometimes he goes out into the audience to dance with people. Sometimes he invites a lady or two onstage. In the middle of a flamenco riff, Simtikidis has been known to flip the guitar over his head and play it backwards, a la Jimi Hendrix.

A Canadian-born son of Greek immigrants, Simtikidis has carved out a niche in a growing international market for what he terms a Mediterranean sound mixing the folkloric styles of Greek and Latin music with pop sensibilities. He firmly believes music is meant to be an expression of multiple influences.

His seven recordings have sold more than 500,000 copies. PBS signed Simtikidis to do a concert special. The concert and DVD is produced by George Veras, 12-time Emmy Award-winner, producer and director (including Yanni's Live at the Acropolis, Ray Charles Live, 2004 Olympics, Athens.)

This will be Simtikidis' most dynamic performance ever, with an eight-piece band and eight dancers — making his concert at the Sid the last opportunity for our audience to enjoy an intimate concert before he goes big-time.

Oscar Lopez's Latin guitar groove has made him a standout on the world music scene. Never afraid to venture into different genres, Lopez easily incorporates jazz, blues, and even pop sensibilities into his music.

Rik Emmett has his fair share of gold and platinum hanging on the wall after surviving three decades in the music biz.

Audiences marvel at the versatility of the tenor as he continues his prolific run of solo indie CDs, from classical to jazz to acoustic pop and folk vocal stylings through to the hard rock and heavy metal that made his reputation in the first place.

For the best seats in the house at the March 9 concert, order your tickets today. Tickets are \$45 regular. Ask about discounts for members, students and children.

Visit the Sid Williams Theatre on the corner of Cliffe and Fifth in downtown Courtenay, purchase online at www.sidwilliamstheatre.com, or charge by phone at 250-338-2420, toll-free at 1-866-898-TIXX (8499).