

STEREO 

PINK MARTINI SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS

with special appearances by
CHAVELA VARGAS, EMILIO DELGADO, ARI SHAPIRO & COURTNEY TAYLOR-TAYLOR

and featuring members of
THE HARVEY ROSENCRANTZ ORCHESTRA



NEW ALBUM
IN STORES OCTOBER 27, 2009

PINK MARTINI

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

“Pink Martini is a rollicking around-the-world musical adventure ... if the United Nations had a house band in 1962, hopefully we’d be that band.” – Thomas Lauderdale, bandleader/pianist

15 years ago in his hometown of Portland, Oregon, Thomas Lauderdale was working in politics, thinking that one day he would run for mayor. Like other eager beaver politicians-in-training, he went to every political fundraiser under the sun ... but was dismayed to find the music at these events underwhelming, lackluster, loud and un-neighborly. Drawing inspiration from music from all over the world – crossing genres of classical, jazz and old-fashioned pop – and hoping to appeal to conservatives and liberals alike, he founded the “little orchestra” Pink Martini in 1994 to provide more beautiful and inclusive musical soundtracks for political fundraisers for progressive causes such as civil rights, affordable housing, the environment, libraries, public broadcasting, education and parks.

“Pink Martini draws inspiration from the romantic Hollywood musicals of the 1940s or ‘50s ... with a more global perspective. We write a lot of songs ... but we also champion songs like Ernesto Lecuona’s “Andalucia” or “Amado mio” from the Rita Hayworth film *Gilda*. In that sense we’re a bit like musical

archeologists, digging through recordings and scores of years past and rediscovering beautiful songs.”

Lauderdale met China Forbes, Pink Martini’s “Diva Next Door” lead vocalist, at Harvard. He was studying history and literature while she was studying English literature and painting. Actually neither of them really studied, they socialized ... and late at night, they would break into the lower common room in their college dormitory and sing arias by Puccini and Verdi – and the occasional campy Barbara Streisand cover – thus sealing their creative collaboration. Three years after graduating, Lauderdale called Forbes, who was living in New York City, where she’d been writing songs and playing guitar in her own folk-rock project, and asked her to join Pink Martini. They began to write songs together for the band and their first song “Sympathique” became an overnight sensation in France— and was nominated for “Song of the Year” at France’s Victoires de la Musique Awards in 2000.

“Both China Forbes and I come from multicultural families,” says Lauderdale. “All of us in Pink Martini have studied different languages as well as different styles of music from different parts of the world, so inevitably our repertoire is wildly diverse. At one moment, you feel like you’re in the middle of a

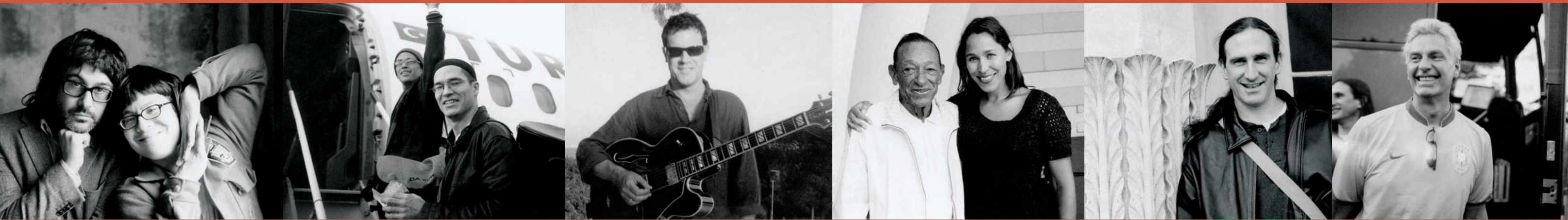
samba parade in Rio de Janeiro, and in the next moment, you’re in a French music hall of the 1930s or a palazzo in Napoli. It’s a bit like an urban musical travelogue. We’re very much an American band, but we spend a lot of time abroad ... and therefore have the incredible diplomatic opportunity to represent a broader, more inclusive America ... the America which remains the most heterogeneously populated country in the world ... comprised of people of every country, every language, every religion.”

Comprised of twelve musicians, Pink Martini performs its multilingual repertoire on concert stages and with symphony orchestras throughout Europe, Asia, Greece, Turkey, the Middle East, Northern Africa, Australia and New Zealand and North America. In 1998 Pink Martini made its European debut at the Cannes Film Festival and its orchestral debut with the Oregon Symphony under the direction of Norman Leyden. Since then, the band has gone on to play with over 25 orchestras around the world, including multiple engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the Boston Pops, the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center and the BBC Concert Orchestra in London. Other appearances include the grand opening of the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s new Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall, with return sold-out engagements for New Year’s Eve 2003, 2004 & 2008; two sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall; the opening party of the remodeled Museum of Modern Art in

NYC; the Governor’s Ball at the 80th Annual Academy Awards in 2008; and the opening of the 2008 Sydney Festival in Australia.

Pink Martini’s debut album *Sympathique* was released independently in 1997 on the band’s own label Heinz Records (named after Lauderdale’s dog), and quickly became an international phenomenon, garnering the group nominations for “Song of the Year” and “Best New Artist” in France’s Victoires de la Musique Awards in 2000. Pink Martini released *Hang on Little Tomato* in 2004 and *Hey Eugene* in 2007. All three albums have gone gold in France, Canada, Greece and Turkey, and have sold more than 2 million copies worldwide. In partnership with Public Television, the band filmed and in 2009 released a live concert dvd entitled *Discover The World*.

“Americans don’t really sing together anymore ... except for church ... or maybe the shower. At the turn of the 20th century, every middle-class American household had a piano. And it was the focal point of the house ... people would gather around it and sing together. Music was something everyone participated in. Everyone played an instrument or sang, everybody knew the songs, knew the words, and could participate. But then the radio came, and then the television ... and soon it was all over. For me, Pink Martini is partially an attempt to rebuild a culture which sings and dances.”



SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS. NEW ALBUM IN STORES OCTOBER 27, 2009

Pink Martini’s fourth studio album – *Splendor In The Grass* – encapsulates the band’s history and spirit of global collaboration and inclusivity. Comprised of nine original songs and four covers (with songs in English, Neapolitan, Italian, French and Spanish), *Splendor In The Grass* was recorded in the band’s hometown of Portland, Oregon and produced by bandleader/pianist Thomas Lauderdale and longtime collaborator and muse Alex Marashian—a college cohort of Lauderdale and vocalist China Forbes.

Opening with the band’s first ever song in Neapolitan—“Ninna nanna” is a stunning lullaby sung for a sleeping sailor who “dreams in the blue” written for the band by longtime friends Alba Clemente (actress of Italian stage and wife of the Italian painter Francesco Clemente who co-authored the band’s hit “Una Notte a Napoli”) and New York art dealer Massimo Audiello.

From guitarist Dan Faehnle’s jazzy instrumental “Ohayoo Ohio (Hello Ohio),” to the charming chamber pop song “Sunday Table” “this album is all about participating in the world ... being part of it, being out in the street and finding moments of incredible breathtaking splendor in the activities and unfoldings of every day,” says Lauderdale.

Drawing inspiration from William Wordsworth, Walt Whitman and the Carpenters, the title track, “Splendor In The Grass” was written by Marashian and Lauderdale, and is a plea for a return to the land in classic 70’s pop style and features Courtney Taylor-Taylor of the Dandy Warhols on electric guitar and the opening theme of Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto #1.

“Où est ma tête” is a witty and wistful cha cha in French about losing body parts ... in parts of Paris. “Since I lost you, I am in pieces on the avenue,” sings Forbes. “And I cannot pick up the pieces by myself ... Come back, darling, to me ... It’s you who makes me whole.”

Companion pieces, “And Then You’re Gone” and “But Now I’m Back” are based on the opening themes of Franz Schubert’s Fantasy in f-minor for piano and 4 hands. “And Then Your’re Gone” tells the tale of a woman who has reached the end of her rope and tells the philandering Lorenzo to get lost. “But Now I’m Back” marks the recording debut of NPR Justice Correspondent Ari Shapiro and is Lorenzo’s plea to Maria to let him back in.

Inspired by the view from Forbes’ home, the stunning Forbes/Lauderdale penned “Over The Valley” sets a new standard in classic love songs while “Tuca tuca” – first sung by the Italian chanteuse Raffaella Carrà – is a flirtatious song, with the mantra: “Mi piaci” or “I like you”. Often accompanied by a little dance in which two people “touch” ... this Tuca Tuca features China Forbes’ brilliant and seductive singing in Italian and bassist Phil Baker playing the sitar from the 1968 Peter Sellers’ film *The Party*.

Written for his daughters Sadie and Lulu in Berlin “Bitty Boppy Betty” is an Alex Marashian original complete with barbershop quartet, cool percussion and horn sections, and a melody which swings both ways.

Originally written by Joe Raposo in 1971 for the American children’s television show *Sesame Street* and made famous when The Carpenters recorded it a year later, “Sing” sees the band return the song to its roots and features a bilingual duet between China Forbes and Emilio Delgado, aka “Luis” from *Sesame Street*, with a background chorus comprised of the Royal Blues of Grant High School and the staff of Portland Mayor Sam Adams.

The legendary ranchera singer Chavela Vargas recorded a gorgeously striking version of Agustín and María Teresa Lara’s “Piensa en mí”. A one-time lover of the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo and admired by Pedro Almodóvar, she dressed as a man in her youth, smoked cigars, drank heavily, carried a gun and was known for her characteristic red poncho, which she still dons in performances.

Perhaps the most beautiful ode to the city of New York ever written, “New Amsterdam” was composed by Louis Hardin, aka Moondog, the Viking of Sixth Avenue. Here the Pink Martini brass section is joined by multiple saxophones, euphoniums, tubas, trombones and trumpets with China Forbes and the incredible Tsunami Singers of the Pacific Youth Choir ... following the driving beat of the concert bass drum.

Splendor In The Grass comes to a gorgeous close with an intimate reprise of “Ninna nanna” with Dan Faehnle on guitar accompanying China Forbes.



DISCOGRAPHY



Splendor In The Grass
2009, Heinz Records



Hey Eugene!
2007, Heinz Records



Hang on Little Tomato
2004, Heinz Records



Sympathique
1997, Heinz Records



Discover The World:
Live Concert DVD
2009, Heinz Records

PERSONNEL

China Forbes, vocals
Thomas M. Lauderdale, piano
Gavin Bondy, trumpet
Robert Taylor, trombone
Nicholas Crosa, violin
Pansy Chang, cello
Maureen Love, harp
Phil Baker, upright bass
Dan Faehnle, guitar
Timothy Nishimoto, vocals & percussion
Brian Davis, congas & percussion
Derek Rieth, bongos & percussion
Martin Zarzar, drums & percussion

CONTACT

Management: Macklam Feldman Management
Michelle Findlay
findlay@mfmgt.com
200-1505 West 2nd Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V6H 3Y4 Canada
Telephone: (604)734-5945

Record Label: Heinz Records
Bill Tennant
bill@pinkmartini.com
P.O. Box 4628
Portland, Oregon 97208 USA
Telephone: (503)249-0808

Heinz Records Publicity
Peter Murray
peter@pinkmartini.com

Media Relations: Sacks & Co.
Mary Moyer
mary@sacksco.com
Asha Goodman
asha.goodman@sacksco.com
Telephone: (212)741-1000



www.pinkmartini.com

PINK MARTINI

SELECTED PRESS QUOTES

"This is rich, hugely approachable music, utterly cosmopolitan yet utterly unpretentious. And it seems to speak to just about everybody...from grade-schoolers to grandmothers to the young and hip and beautiful." – The Washington Post

"[Pink Martini] delivers a knowing sophistication backed by skillful arrangements...Ms. Forbes is an unpretentious, pitch-perfect chanteuse who can be breathy and girlish or sultry...she tempers heartbreak with savoir-faire." – The New York Times

"No matter how Pink Martini gets described, there's always an element being overlooked, a reliance on phrases such as lounge, cosmopolitan rumba or neo-classical that only tells part of this rich story. Impressive at every musician's station, this ensemble produces music that's charming and elegant..." – Variety

CONCERT APPEARANCES

- Headlining concert at the Hollywood Bowl (September 2009)
- Sold-out return engagement at Carnegie Hall (June 2009)
- New Year's Eve concerts broadcast live nationwide by NPR's "Toast of the Nation" (December 2004 & 2008)
- Performance at 80th Annual Academy Awards Governor's Ball (February 2008)
- Appearance on Good Morning America's Post-Oscar Broadcast (February 2008)
- Three sold-out concerts at the Hollywood Bowl with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and special guests Carol Channing & Henri Salvador (September 2007)
- National television appearance on Late Show with David Letterman (June 2007)
- Sold-out Carnegie Hall debut (June 2007)
- With the BBC Orchestra in London and the Orchestre National d'Ile de France at Salle Pleyel in Paris (March 2007)
- PBS television pledge program "Pink Martini Live: Discover The World" distributed nationally (beginning June 2006)
- National television debut on Late Night with Conan O'Brien (November 2005)
- Tours in France, the UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece, Serbia, Turkey, Lebanon, Taiwan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the US (1999-2008)
- Four sold-out concerts with The Boston Pops (May 2005)
- Performances with The Los Angeles Philharmonic and The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra at the Hollywood Bowl (2000, 2002, 2005 & 2007)
- Grand opening and four sold-out New Year's Eve concerts at The Walt Disney Concert Hall (2003 & 2004)
- Opening party for the Museum of Modern Art in New York (November 2004)
- The 1998 and 1999 Cannes Film Festivals
- The William Morris Agency's Centennial Anniversary in Los Angeles, backing soul legend Al Green for three songs (September 1998)

FILM / TELEVISION / COMPILATIONS

Pink Martini's music has been used in the films: Hitch, Josie & The Pussycats, Nurse Betty, In the Cut, Town & Country, Rosetta, Big Trouble, Hooking Up Ethan, Tortilla Soup, Asesino En Serio, Favela Rising, Mary and Max.

Television: The Sopranos, The West Wing, Desperate Housewives, Weeds, Samantha Who, CSI New York, Third Watch, Dead Like Me, Nip/Tuck, Felicity, Popular, The L Word, Men In Trees, The Cartoon Network, Kitchen Confidential, Citroën's "Picasso" campaign (Europe), Volkswagen "Passat" campaign (Europe), Cadbury's Cherry Ripe campaign (Australia), CBC "Stars on Ice" (Canada), Lexus (USA), Jeep (worldwide), Nike (US).

Compilations: Starbucks, Bergdorf Goodman, Buddha Bar, Hotel Costes, Nordstrom, Christian Lacroix, Putumayo, West Elm, Façonnable, Williams-Sonoma and numerous film soundtrack albums.

SALES

Pink Martini's three recordings, *Sympathique*, *Hang on Little Tomato* and *Hey Eugene!*, collectively have sold over 2 million records worldwide.

Sympathique has sold over 975,000 copies worldwide
425,000 + units in the United States
550,000 + units in Europe, Canada and other territories
Platinum in France; Gold in Switzerland, Turkey and Greece

Hey Eugene! has sold over 350,000 copies worldwide
180,000 + units in the United States
170,000 + units in Europe, Canada and other territories
Gold in France and Turkey
Hey Eugene! debuted at #1 on Amazon.com, #30 on Billboard Top 200, #2 on Billboard Top Jazz Albums, #2 Billboard Top Independent Albums, #2 Billboard Top Internet Albums and #9 on iTunes Top Albums.

Hang on Little Tomato has sold over 700,000 copies worldwide
300,000 + units in the United States
400,000 + units in Europe, Canada and other territories
Gold in France, Canada and Turkey
Hang on Little Tomato climbed to #1 on Amazon.com, #2 on StreetPulse, #3 on Billboard Heatseekers, #5 on Billboard Top Internet Albums, #7 on Billboard Top Independent Albums, and #53 on the Billboard 200.

CONTACT

Management: Macklam Feldman Management
200-1505 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC,
V6H 3Y4 Canada
Telephone: (604)734-5945
Michelle Findlay, findlay@mfmgt.com

Record Label: Heinz Records
P.O. Box 4628
Portland, Oregon 97208 USA
Telephone: (503)249-0808
Bill Tennant, bill@pinkmartini.com

Media Relations: Sacks & Co
472 W. 14th Street
New York, NY 10014
Mary Moyer, mary@sacksco.com
Asha Goodman, ashagoodman@sacksco.com

Heinz Records Publicity:
Peter Murray, peter@pinkmartini.com



www.pinkmartini.com

PINK MARTINI CHRONOLOGY

- 1994:** Thomas Lauderdale forms Pink Martini in Portland, Oregon
- 1995:** Band garners loyal following by headlining self-produced themed-parties and concerts
- 1996:** Ensemble grows from quintet to 12-piece "little orchestra"
- 1997:** China Forbes joins Pink Martini as a full time member, moves to Portland from New York
- 1997:** November, *Sympathique* released
- 1998:** May, European debut at Cannes Film Festival
- 1999:** Concerts across US and Europe: Los Angeles, New York and Paris
- 2000:** February, nominated for "Best Song" and "Best New Artist," France's Victoires de la Musique Awards
- 2000:** Tours in France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Lebanon and Taiwan
- 2001:** April, *Sympathique* goes Gold in France
- 2001:** Appearances across Europe including Greece and Turkey
- 2002:** July, debut at Hollywood Bowl with Los Angeles Philharmonic
- 2003:** October, performance at grand opening of Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles
- 2004:** October, highly anticipated second album, *Hang on Little Tomato*, released
- 2004:** November, *Hang on Little Tomato* reaches #1 on Amazon.com in US
- 2004:** November, *Sympathique* goes Platinum in France
- 2005:** April, *Hang on Little Tomato* goes Gold in France
- 2005:** May, symphonic concerts across the US including the Boston Pops
- 2005:** June, *Hang on Little Tomato* goes Gold in Turkey
- 2005:** November, national US Television debut on Late Night with Conan O'Brien
- 2006:** April, *Hang on Little Tomato* goes Gold in Canada
- 2006:** November, performance for Cartier in Hong Kong; Tokyo concert debut
- 2007:** March, European symphonic concerts with Orchestre National d'Ile de France (Paris) and BBC Orchestra (London)
- 2007:** May, third album *Hey Eugene!* released. Debuts at #1 Amazon US, #30 Billboard Top 200, #9 iTunes Albums
- 2007:** June, sold-out Carnegie Hall debut, New York City
- 2007:** June, national US Television appearance on Late Show with David Letterman
- 2007:** September, three sold-out concerts at the Hollywood Bowl with Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and special guests Carol Channing & Henri Salvador
- 2008:** January, inaugural tour Australia/New Zealand
- 2008:** February, performance at 80th Annual Academy Awards Governor's Ball
- 2008:** February, appearance on Good Morning America's Post-Oscar broadcast
- 2008:** December, New Year's Eve Concert in Los Angeles broadcast live on NPR's Toast of the Nation.
- 2008:** Tours in France, Spain, Portugal, Serbia, Tunisia, Damascus, Cyprus, Canada & US
- 2009:** May/June, record first ever live album in Portland, Oregon with the Oregon Symphony under the direction of Carlos Kalmar
- 2009:** June, release first ever live concert DVD, *Discover The World : Live In Concert*
- 2009:** June, return sold-out engagement at Carnegie Hall
- 2009:** July, two sold-out concerts at Montreal Jazz Festival
- 2009:** September, headline the Hollywood Bowl
- 2009:** October, fourth album, *Splendor In The Grass*, released