

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008

## montalvo ARTS CENTER

Montalvo Arts Center Presents...

### The Bad Plus

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008

Montalvo Arts Center – Carriage House Theatre, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga, Calif.

Doors: 6:30 p.m. Show: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25/35: Ticket Info: 408.961.5858, www.ticketmaster.com

"By any standard, jazz or otherwise, [The Bad Plus has] moving, mighty music...bad to the bone, hot players with hard-rock hearts."  
 -*Rolling Stone*

"...high art, not pop gimmickry...The Bad Plus embrace sonic adventure without selfish avant-gardism...seething with funky new-millennium rhythms and succulent harmonic flights." □ -*Entertainment Weekly*

"Better than anyone at mixing the sensibilities of post-60's jazz and indie rock..." □ -*The New York Times*

On Feb. 13 The Bad Plus, the jazz world's most genre-defying and innovative piano trios, performs a rare South Bay show at Montalvo Arts Center's Carriage House Theatre in Saratoga, Calif. The Bad Plus tours in support of their latest album, **PROG (Heads Up International, 5/8/07)**. Please be sure to include this event in your listings and "Critic's Choices." Interviews and photos are available upon request.

Comprised of drummer **David King**, bassist **Reid Anderson** and pianist **Ethan Iverson**, The Bad Plus proudly foregoes compositional convention in favor of great musical curiosity and craftsmanship—recognizing and respecting the rules of jazz while ripping them to shreds. In 2003, The Bad Plus released *These Are The Vistas*, their major label debut with the venerable **Columbia Records**. Produced by **Tchad Blake (Peter Gabriel, Tom Waits)**, arguably one of the most pioneering engineers of the last 20 years, the album caught much critical attention as it proved to be unlike any other jazz recording to date. Its riveting original arrangements and ingenious takes on songs by **Blondie, Aphex Twin** and **Nirvana** were quickly championed by mainstream rock press, reviled by jazz purists and became a staple on NPR and college radio play lists. Four years and two more landmark Blake-produced records later (2004's *Give* and 2005's *Suspicious Activity?*), The Bad Plus turn yet another sonic page with their newest release, *PROG*.

On *PROG*, English über-engineer/mixer **Tony Platt**—best known for recording and mixing **AC/DC's** classic *Back In Black* along with his work for **Bob Marley, The Rolling Stones, The Who** and **Led Zeppelin**—joins The Bad Plus camp, and in sharp contrast to Blake's deliberately low-fi approach, he undeniably captures the marvel spirit of the band's live sound. Bassist Anderson comments "*PROG* is a true record. It represents us with great clarity, unfiltered. The sound of the other records was bigger than life because that's what we wanted at the time. This time around, it's more naked, somehow." Oscillating between an all-out rock n' roll assault and compositional work reminiscent of the great **Ornette Coleman**, *PROG* features six distinct original compositions alongside crackling interpretations of tracks by **David Bowie** ("Life On Mars"), **Tears For Fears** ("Everybody Wants To Rule The World"), **Rush** ("Tom Sawyer") and **Burt Bacharach** ("This Guy's In Love With You").

Dating back to 1986 when King and Anderson initially became music buds while both living in Minnesota, their love of prog-rock was coupled with an unusual admiration for improvisational jazz. King comments, "When we met at 15, Reid and I were leaning toward progressive rock and some fusion stuff. But by the next year we were deeply entrenched in Coltrane and free jazz. High school was the transition from prog-rock to free jazz and bebop and everything." Over 20 years later, The Bad Plus decided to title their new album *PROG*, pinpointing their abiding approach to re-invent music which moved them the most. King notes, "Our music has been touched by progressive music whether it's prog-rock or jazz. We felt it was time to put a word out there that describes where we're coming from." Anderson adds, "It's clearly a reference to that music, prog-rock. But to me prog-rock always meant re-imagining rock music, whether the end result was good or bad. Those bands were pushing the boundaries as far as they could. That's what we try to do..."

As the Bad Plus hovers amidst a fascinating fusion of indie rock, postmodern jazz and intelligent pop, the trio's four highly acclaimed albums and accompanying reputation for superhuman live performances singularly distinguishes them as modern icons of the Nu-Jazz music movement. The Bad Plus are set to make a rare South Bay appearance at Montalvo's Carriage House Theater showcasing music from *PROG* as they hit West Coast markets this February. Nestled in the Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to forging long-lasting connections between the arts and the communities they serve through their creation, presentation and education in extraordinary ways and settings. For more information please visit [www.montalvoarts.org](http://www.montalvoarts.org).

**Media Contact:** Jesse P. Cutler, JP Cutler Media, 415.655.3431 publicity@jpcutler.com