

Media release

Muscat, 6 March 2010

World renowned artistes entertain audiences at Sarasin-Alpen and Alpen Capital's Global Fusion concert.

The third Global Fusion concert on March 4, 2010 in Muscat, Oman was a huge success. The concert was organized by Sarasin Alpen Co LLC, Oman, a subsidiary of the Swiss private bank, Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Ltd, Dubai together with its investment banking associate Alpen Capital LLC and attended by leading personalities from the region. The Global Fusion is the companies' flagship event and was first introduced to mark the launch of their Dubai Operations back in 2005.

This year's concert was led by the world famous saxophonist - George Brooks who was accompanied by master musicians such as Vikku Vinayakram, Zoltan Lantos, Steve Smith, Niladri Kumar, Larry Coryell, Sivamani, Ensemble Shanbehzadeh, Kai Eckhardt and Isha Sharvani. One of the key highlights of the concert was the Omani musician – Hilal bin Soud Al-Balushi on the violin.

Grammy Award winner Vikku Vinayakram was felicitated at the concert for his contribution to Global Fusion as well as to world music as a part of the organizations' tradition of honouring musicians who have participated in previous fusion concerts and enhanced the musical experience. Speaking at the occasion, Vikku Vinayakram thanked the organizations and their management for giving him this opportunity to perform with other renowned musicians.

The Oman Operations of Sarasin Alpen and Alpen Capital started in 2008. While Sarasin Alpen provides a complete range of private banking advisory services and is the first Swiss origin private banking advisory presence and activity in Oman, Alpen Capital offers investment banking advisory services on debt, equity and mergers & acquisitions. Both organizations, regulated by the Capital Markets Authority Oman, complement each other by providing value added services. In addition to Oman, Sarasin Alpen and Alpen Capital have a presence in UAE, Qatar and India.

Global Fusion – A success story once again.

Rohit Walia, Executive Vice Chairman & CEO, Sarasin Alpen and Alpen Capital

"This year in addition to bringing together musicians from across the world, we also added a visual element in Oman that of introducing contemporary dance to the Fusion concept. This was accepted and well appreciated by our clients."

Atul Rao, Senior Executive Officer, Sarasin Alpen Co LLC, Oman

"The performance of the Omani violinist – Hilal Al Balushi was appreciated by the audiences and they welcomed the idea of promoting a local musician. We are glad that we were able to provide him with a platform to perform with international artistes".

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About the artists:

- **George Brooks**, the world renowned saxophonist leading the concert
- **Vikku Vinayakram**- the Grammy award winning master percussionist on the ghatam;
- **Hilal bin Soud Al- Balushi** – the renowned Omani violinist from the Royal Oman Orchestra;
- **Zoltan Lantos** - a classical violinist from Budapest who has been internationally recognized as a world jazz musician ;
- **Steve Smith** - one of the top twenty five drummers of all time;
- **Niladri Kumar** - the prodigious sitar virtuoso, who has modernized the Indian ‘sitar’, into an electronic one called the ‘zitar’;
- **Larry Coryell** - one of the worlds’ most acknowledged jazz-fusion guitar masters from the USA;
- **Sivamani** – percussionist from India who creates magic with his conventional drums & cymbals to the vastly unconventional shells and *timbale* ;
- **Ensemble Shanbehzadeh**- a father-son duo who dance, sing and play the traditional music of the Persian Gulf, specifically from the town of Boushehr;
- **Kai Eckhardt** – famous bass player known for his ability to play lightening fast & for his unique combination of “funk” “jazz” & “ world music”and
- **Isha Sharvani** - an Indian dancer and actress, who is at the forefront of contemporary Indian dance and is known for her stylistic and unique dance performances

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Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Ltd – www.sarasin-alpen.com

Bank Sarasin-Alpen is incorporated as Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Limited in Dubai, as Bank Sarasin-Alpen Qatar, LLC, in Qatar and as Sarasin-Alpen LLC, in Oman. These subsidiaries of Bank Sarasin, Basel, Switzerland provide the complete range of Bank Sarasin’s private banking services. In addition to UAE, Qatar and Oman, the bank caters to the requirements of private and institutional clients in the Middle East and South Asia.

Sarasin Alpen Co LLC,Oman – www.sarasin-alpen.com

Located in the financial district of Oman and regulated by the Capital Market Authority, Sarasin Alpen Co LLC is a subsidiary of Bank Sarasin-Alpen, Dubai providing a complete range of advisory services in private banking services. Sarasin Alpen Co LLC caters to the requirements of private & institutional clients in the Middle East & South Asia.

Alpen Capital LLC, Oman - www.alpencapital.com

Regulated by the Capital Market Authority-Oman, Alpen Capital LLC is a member of the Alpen Capital Group. Alpen Capital offers a full range of corporate advisory services including Capital Markets, Debt Syndication, Mergers & Acquisitions and Project Advisory

Sarasin – Sustainable Swiss Private Banking since 1841 – www.sarasin.com

The Sarasin Group has its roots as a leading Swiss private bank. As an international financial service provider committed to sustainability, the Group is now represented in more than 20 locations in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. By the end of December 2009 it managed total client assets of CHF 93.7 billion and employed more than 1,500 staff. Its majority shareholder is the AAA-rated Dutch Rabobank.