



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

39<sup>th</sup> Mill Valley Film Festival, October 6 – 16, 2016  
Celebrating the Best in Independent and World Cinema

**MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES**  
**MVFF MUSIC**  
**NEW ARTISTS ANNOUNCED!**  
NINE EVENINGS OF LIVE MUSIC  
CURATED FOR THE MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL  
**MVFF MUSIC DATES ~ OCTOBER 7 – 15, 2016**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (September 24, 2016) – The Mill Valley Film Festival (October 6 – 16, 2016), presented by the California Film Institute, announces two new acts joining the line-up at the Sweetwater Music Hall. Nine nights of live music include performances by artists featured in MVFF films, as well as local, national, and international musicians. MVFF Music is sponsored by Marin General Hospital.

**October 7, 2016 – Thao Nguyen (of Thao and the Get Down Stay Down)**

An established San Franciscan who packed the Fillmore earlier this year, Thao brings a special solo version of her “country-tinged indie folk-pop” (AllMusic) to MVFF Music.

*Film pairing: A Song for You: The Austin City Limits Story*

**JUST ANNOUNCED! October 8, 2016 – Prezident Brown & The Itals**

Join Jamaican roots reggae artist Prezident Brown and reggae veterans The Itals as they take the spirit of MVFF39’s Cannabis Focus day into the night. With decades of music-making behind them, The Itals are still going strong, stalwarts of the Jamaican harmony group sound. A hard working artist who’s been touring the US with his band for the last decade, Prez is a champion of the new roots and reality consciousness reggae movement that entertains, informs and inspires.

**October 9, 2016 – Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas**

Dubbed “the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling” by *The San Francisco Examiner*, Fraser, along with Juilliard-trained cellist Natalie Haas, presents an evening of Scottish fiddle and cello music of unrivaled beauty, eloquence, and passion.

*Film pairing: The Groove is Not Trivial*

**October 10, 2016 – Erika Wennerstrom (with Peter Stakee of Alberta Cross)**

Best known as the leader and energetic core of the indie rock band Heartless Bastards, Erika Wennerstrom steps into her own spotlight as a solo artist, her powerful, soulful voice “exquisitely engaging in its world-weary twang” (Pitchfork).

**LINE-UP ANNOUNCED! October 11, 2016 – BANG! Bert Berns Celebration**

Celebrating the release of the documentary *BANG! The Bert Berns Story*, MVFF Music in collaboration with Steep Productions will present a special live concert honoring the astonishing body of work by songwriter Bert Berns and featuring legendary soul singer, **Betty Harris**. The movie is based on NY Times best-selling author and SF Chronicle critic Joel Selvin’s book, *Here Comes the Night: The Dark Soul of Bert Berns and the Dirty Business of Rhythm and Blues* and the Sweetwater Music Hall will rock with a once in a lifetime live concert curated & hosted by Selvin who has paired up some of the world’s most celebrated soul singers (Bert Berns originals) with dynamite backup singers for over a dozen of Bert Berns brilliant songs including “Everybody Needs Somebody to Love”, “Piece of My Heart”, “Twist and Shout”, “Cry Baby”, “Hang on Sloopy”, “I Want

Candy” and many more. Supported by an illustrious house band including keyboardists **Jimmy Pugh** (Robert Cray and Etta James) and **Barry Goldberg** (Electric Flag, The Rides with Stephen Stills and Kenny Wayne Shepard), **Scott Mathews** (BB King, Eric Clapton) on drums, and **Robin Sylvester** (Bob Weir & Ratdog) on bass. Music Director, Scott Mathews.

Featuring: **Betty Harris** (Berns original), **Linda Hart** (Berns original), **Kim Nalley**, **Matt Jaffe**, **Shana Morrison**, **Cassie Berns**, **HUGElarge**, **Rick Stevens**, **Dorothy Morrison**, **Glenn Walters**, **Larry Batiste**, **Flamin’ Groovies**.

A Benefit for CFI Education

*Film pairing: BANG! The Bert Berns Story*

#### **October 12, 2016 – Fred Hersch**

Named the Jazz Journalists Association’s “Jazz Pianist of the Year” for 2016, the eight-time Grammy® nominee graces the MVFF Music stage with a solo performance to complement a new documentary about his life and career.

*Film pairing: The Ballad of Fred Hersch*

#### **JUST ANNOUNCED! October 13, 2016 – Trevor Hall**

Trevor Hall’s has toured with Michael Franti, Matisyahu, and Jimmy Cliff, presenting an eclectic mix of acoustic rock, reggae and Sanskrit chanting, unified around a refreshingly positive, universal message.

#### **October 14, 2016 – Alejandro Escovedo Trio**

After a multi-decade solo career encompassing everything from punk to country to Americana, Escovedo’s musical range manifests as guitar-forward roots rock with emotional depth and sing-along choruses.

**LINE-UP ANNOUNCED! October 15, 2016 – The Great Mill Valley Gospel Show**, Musician and multiple-Grammy-winner Narada Michael Walden (who produced hits for Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, and Whitney Houston, among many others) returns for a second year, curating a spirit-moving, hand-clapping performance to close out year two of MVFF Music. **Show will feature: Narada Michael Walden on drums, Troy Lampkins on bass, Willis Hickerson on B-3, Kevan Peabody on Keys, Matthew Charles Heulitt on Guitar. Vocalists: Jeanie Tracy, Nate’ Soul Sanger, Cornell Carter, Rusty Watson (director of the Love Center Choir), Gospel Choir**

A Benefit for CFI Education.

MVFF Music tickets available online, <http://www.mvff.com/music/> or the Sweetwater Music Hall box office, 19 Corte Madera Avenue, Mill Valley.

Film tickets can be purchased online, [www.mvff.com](http://www.mvff.com) or the Mill Valley Film Festival box office, located at 1020 B. Street (@ Julia) in San Rafael and Zener Schon Contemporary Art, 23 Sunnyside Avenue in Mill Valley.

#### **About the Mill Valley Film Festival**

For nearly four decades, the world-renowned Mill Valley Film Festival (MVFF) has maintained its position as a vital showcase of the global film community, attracting iconic red-carpet talent, burgeoning filmmakers, passionate audiences, and astutely curated premieres. An in-demand destination for film lovers, drawn by unmatched locale and a diverse program of mainstream studio features and new visions from independent voices from around the world, MVFF also hosts an exciting array of filmmaker and industry conversations, panels, parties, and live music performances, featuring the most acclaimed emerging and veteran actors, filmmakers, and musicians of our time. A destination event for cinephiles everywhere, and known for launching new films and creating awards season buzz, MVFF has earned a deserved reputation as a “filmmaker’s festival” by celebrating the best in American, independent, and world cinema alongside high profile and prestigious award contenders. Presented by the California Film Institute, this year’s Festival runs October 6 – 16, 2016. Opening Night Gala will be held at Marin Country Mart and Closing Night Party will be held at Cavallo Point.

Screening locations include: CinéArts@Sequoia and The Sweetwater Music Hall (Mill Valley), Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center (San Rafael), Cinemark Century Larkspur Landing and Lark Theatre (Larkspur), and Cinemark Century Cinema Corte Madera (Corte Madera).

#### **About the California Film Institute**

The non-profit California Film Institute celebrates and promotes film as art and education through year-round programming at the non-profit independent theatre, Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, presentation of the

acclaimed Mill Valley Film Festival and cultivation of the next generation of filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education programs. For more information, visit <http://www.cafilm.org> or call (415) 383-5256.

**Supporters**

As a nonprofit arts organization, CFI relies on the generosity of its community to sustain not only the Festival, but also the year-round programs of the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center and CFI Education. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, and individual donors ensures our continued success as we celebrate our 39<sup>th</sup> year.

CFI is once again proud to acknowledge the leadership support of Christopher B. and Jeannie Meg Smith and Jennifer Coslett MacCready, and the continued major support of Ken and Jackie Broad Family Fund, Drusie and Jim Davis - Drusie Davis Family Fund, The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Gruber Family Foundation, Michael and Susan Schwartz Fund, Marin Community Foundation and The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. We are also fortunate to have the contributions of the following Signature and Major Sponsors of the Mill Valley Film Festival: Wells Fargo, Jackson Square Partners, Lucasfilm, Ltd., Maroevich, O'Shea & Coghlan Insurance Services, Zaentz Media Center/A Wareham and Development, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Delta Air Lines and San Francisco Chronicle and Government Support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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#MVFF39

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**For Calendar Editor**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Mill Valley Film Festival  
Marin County, California

Thursday, October 6 – Sunday, October 16, 2016

Tickets & Information: <http://www.mvff.com>