

Award-winning Jazz artist Laila Biali returns to her home province this winter

COQUITLAM, B.C., January 12, 2012 – The Evergreen Cultural Centre is thrilled to start the New Year with a concert presentation featuring award-winning jazz artist, **Laila Biali** on **Friday January 27 at 8pm**.

Laila Biali has come a long way in a short time, from growing up in North Vancouver to living in New York City. She burst onto the music scene while in her early twenties with a singular sound evolving from a broad blend of influences, from Keith Jarrett to Chopin, Joni Mitchell and Björk. In 2010, she released her Juno-nominated third album, *Tracing Light* — a culmination of nearly 10 years work with world-renowned artists (**Sting, Suzanne Vega, Chris Botti**). She has performed at world-class venues spanning five continents, and has received numerous accolades.

From the beginnings of Jazz, musicians chose standards - a mix of their personal favourites and chart toppers - as part of their repertoire. Audiences can expect to hear an inspired collection of songs written by **Imogen Heap, K.D. Lang, Daniel Lanois, Billy Joel**, standards popularized by **Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra** and **Doris Day**, as well as Laila's own original compositions, including new songs she is recording this year.

"I'm thrilled to be coming back to my home province to perform. Having grown up on the North Shore, the West Coast will always be a place of inspiration for me" says Laila, who lives in the Big Apple with her husband, percussionist Ben Wittman and their son Joshua.

Laila was honoured as SOCAN composer of the Year and Keyboardist of the Year at the National Jazz Awards and her most recent Jazz recording, *Tracing Light*, saw her nominated for a 2011 JUNO award in the Vocal Jazz category. The Toronto Star lauded her as *"A keyboard virtuoso with a distinctive sultry voice - intimate and emotional."*

In 2009, she performed and recorded with **Sting** on his *If On a Winter's Night* tour. She has also performed with other world-renowned artists including **Chris Botti, Paula Cole, and Suzanne Vega**. Rob Mathes, producer, arranger, and composer for Sting, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Yo Yo Ma and others describes her as *"a rare find. She is not just a great pianist filled with an ever shifting and seemingly endless lyricism; she has the voice of an angel, and seems incapable of singing one bad note or a phrase not tied to the emotional landscape of the lyric."*

Concert tickets are \$35 adults, \$30 seniors, \$15 for students and are available through the Box Office 604.927.6555 or online at www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca. Visit Laila Biali online at www.lailabiali.com, find her on twitter at @lailabiali and join her facebook community online.