



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Marketing and Communications

Press Release

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The Mike Stern Band to Headline 7th Les Paul Festival Concert at Ramapo College

MAHWAH, N.J. -- The Mike Stern Band featuring Teymur Phell and Richie Morales will headline the 7th Les Paul Festival Concert at Ramapo College on Saturday, February 24 in the Berrie Center's Sharp Theater at 8 p.m. The annual festival celebrates Mahwah resident Les Paul's innovative spirit as a musician and technologist by hosting a week of guest speakers and workshops for Ramapo's music students culminating in a concert for the college and regional community. The Les Paul Festival is presented by the Ramapo College Music Program, the Berrie Center for the Performing and Visual Arts, the School of Contemporary Arts, the student-run Ramapo Music Club, and the Mahwah Museum.

Mike Stern is regarded as one of the true guitar greats to a generation of contemporary jazz guitar aficionados. A player of remarkable facility, his searing lines are informed mainly by bebop and the blues while also carrying a rock-tinged intensity. Stern made his mark with Miles Davis in the early 1980s before launching his solo career in 1985. Since then he has released 17 recordings as a leader, six of which were nominated for GRAMMY® Awards. His latest album is titled "Trip." Stern has also played with Blood, Sweat & Tears, Jaco Pastorius, Michael and Randy Brecker, Eric Johnson, Bela Fleck, and numerous other major jazz musicians. Stern was presented with Guitar Player magazine's Certified Legend Award in 2012. Ramapo College is thrilled and honored to have Mike Stern headline the 7th Les Paul Festival, during which he will also provide a workshop for Ramapo music students.

Drummer Richie Morales, a native of New York City, is a versatile player who has performed and recorded with a wide range of contemporary artists: Mike Stern, The Brecker Brothers, Spyro Gyra, Grover Washington Jr., Al DiMeola, Stevie Wonder, Carly Simon, Dianne Reeves, saxophonist Bill Evans, bassist Victor Bailey, Michael Franks, George Russell's Living Time Orchestra, Grammy award winning vibraphonist Dave Samuels, Gato Barbieri, Dave Valentin, Ray Barretto, and Herbie Mann. He also leads his own group performing a mixture of Jazz standards and original music. Richie has been a member of the jazz faculty at Purchase College Conservatory of Music SUNY since 2000. He has also taught at the Juilliard School's Music Advancement Program.

Bassist Teymur Phell moved to New York in 2011 and has since built a reputation as a vibrant and virtuosic player. He has performed with Mike Stern, Arturo Sandoval, Danielia Cotton, Alex Young, Leni Stern, Kevin Salem, Lafayette Harris, and Oz Noy. Born in Azerbaijan to a family of professional musicians

-- his grandmother Elmira Nazirova was a celebrated classical pianist -- Teymur studied classical bass at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and toured with Palestinian singer Amal Murkus.

Concert tickets are \$30/27/24, and \$8 for Ramapo students with ID. No discounts. Contact the Berrie Center Box Office: (201) 684-7844 or visit

<https://www.ramapo.edu/berriecenter/event/les-paul-festival-concert-featuring-mike-stern-band/>.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by College Choice and recognized by, among others, U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction and, also designated by Victory Media as a "Military Friendly College," Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.