

THE WORLD CUP OF JAZZ

While they're bending it like Beckham in Germany, we have Bamako, Bechet and blues

Flags are everywhere, internationalism is in the air – and time for the rare confluence of the World Cup of soccer and the Montreal International Jazz Festival.

Jazz is no longer America's music, and unique national styles have evolved using it as a springboard.

Oslo, Norway, oozes the electronica chill of trumpeter Nils Petter Molvaer, while Amadou and Mariam from Mali – where the sounds seem similar to Mississippi Delta blues – get transplanted via a stage show called Paris Bamako.

The Refugee All-Stars of Sierra Leone offer Afro-beat riches, while veteran drummer Aldo Romano plans an invitation series around his roots in Italy, France (his adopted nation) and the New Orleans jazz of Sidney Bechet.

Finally, from the U.S., 65-year-old Pharoah Sanders – so named by Sun Ra – charts his course among today's young turks with mellow echoes of a time when jazz was synonymous with Black Power.

Like the Mundial, the power of jazz is global and, here in Montreal, omnipresent.

Complete jazz fest coverage for today, tomorrow, Pages E2-E3



LOVE: CIRQUE MOVES TO BEATLES TUNES IN VEGAS AND IT'S A TRIP, E5

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