

Pianist hopes for *So Much* with his new album

By STACEY STEIN
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Jazz pianist Ron Davis says he's had three lives. Davis had always planned on being a musician, but at his parents' urging, he went into law. The next detour came when Davis became an assistant professor of French after receiving his PhD in French linguistics. But Davis eventually returned to his original plan, and with the launch of his second album *So Much* he's hoping to scale new heights in his music career.

"While my first CD (*soloduetrio*) was

my calling card to the world, the new CD has a much broader scope and ambition," Davis said. "We have our eyes on not only bringing the music across Canada, but internationally as well. This CD is more of an international intent."

To realize this goal, Davis is planning a European tour, during which he hopes to stop in Israel.

"I have a special desire to bring the music to Israel," he said. "As a Jew, it means something special to visit Israel and play there; it would be wonderful to make music in the land of my ancestors."

Davis returned to music professionally six years ago after a career as a lawyer and a four-year stint as an assistant professor of French at the University of Toronto. Davis said his other careers have definitely had an impact on his life as a musician.

"Playing music is not just about execution and proficiency. Playing music is about personality and presenting a face," he said. "I think one of the reasons we connect with the audience is because I have a wide and varied background."

Davis performs regularly at music clubs in Toronto and also plays at simchahs and corporate events. Ironically, Davis has been performing at law firms, playing both for lawyers he has worked with in the past and lawyers he has worked against.

"In some cases, they [lawyers] have said 'I envy you. I wish I could pursue my passion,'" he said.

Davis' first album, *soloduetrio*, was released in 2001 and received play on radio stations such as the CBC, CKLN and Jazz-FM 91.1.



The Ron Davis Trio.

with his trio this year to do an instrumental recording. He also hopes to find a good manager. "I feel I have something the public can connect with," Davis said. "I feel there's a wider audience for my music."

So Much will be released Feb. 3 at the Montreal Bistrot in Toronto (65 Sherbourne St.). Ron Davis can be contacted through his Web site, www.rddavis.com.