

For Immediate Release

Three-Time International Blues Challenge Award Winner Kevin Burt Makes Calgary Debut in PCL Blues series from Arts Commons Presents

Coralville, Iowa-based Kevin Burt’s January appearance to include a music masterclass with Calgary students in advance of two concerts in the Engineered Air Theatre

January 4, 2023 - CALGARY – Rich vocals, soulful guitar, and high-energy harmonica are the calling cards of bluesman Kevin Burt who makes his Calgary debut with the PCL Blues series from Arts Commons Presents this month. Famed for his record-breaking three-award sweep at the 2018 International Blues Challenge in Memphis – Kevin Burt wowed judges and critics alike, before the pandemic prevented his planned international tours. Join **Arts Commons Presents** for the highly anticipated arrival of **Kevin Burt** as part of the 25th anniversary season of the **PCL Blues** series on **Friday, January 20 & Saturday, January 21, 2023** in the **Engineered Air Theatre** at **Arts Commons**.

Honing his craft in his native Waterloo, Iowa and later Coralville, Iowa, playing between 300 and 400 gigs a year, Kevin Burt became an overnight star after his record-breaking win at the 2018 International Blues Challenge. The International Blues Challenge is the Blues Foundation's crowning event which welcomes over 800 musicians each year for a world-renowned five-day blues celebration. Along with Best Solo/Duo, Burt won the coveted Lee Oskar Harmonica and The Cigar Box Guitar awards to secure his place in music history. He rode the momentum of the unprecedented achievement right into the release of his newest album, Stone Crazy. Critics sang his praises, calling Stone Crazy “vocally exquisite, musically phenomenal; a blues album to cherish,” (Blues Matters!) as he “bares his soul time and again, making this one worth many a listen!” (Blues Blast Magazine).

In addition to his live performances with Arts Commons Presents, the programming arm of Arts Commons, Kevin Burt will be engaging with 28 Calgary students to share his wealth of experience to inspire tomorrow’s artists, leaders, and creative thinkers. Applying his tried-and-true philosophy education through entertainment in Calgary, he will be conducting a learning session with Grade 5 & 6 students from University School including an overview of blues history and his craft, as well as a performance workshop on harmonica. **B-roll and interview opportunities are available for this exclusive education engagement.** Burt was granted the honour of being recognized as one of the top blues heritage educations of the Midwestern United States by the Governor of Iowa in February 2009.

“What influences you? What is going to make you feel good? That’s what you need to be searching for,” says Kevin Burt about his philosophy about life and the creation of his music. “The beauty of blues is that you must immerse yourself; it’s not just one artist or a couple of artists. I always tell kids, blues is like a buffet and if you go to a buffet and all you order is the chicken nuggets, why did you go to the buffet?”

Celebrating its 25th anniversary season, the PCL Blues series is testament to Calgary’s love affair with the blues genre. The 2022-23 season of the PCL Blues series from Arts Commons Presents launched with a GRAMMY Award-winning superstar Sept 30 & Oct 1 and a homegrown favourite – Nov 4 & 5. Iowa’s hidden gem [Kevin Burt](#) rings in the New Year on January 20 & 21, followed by the unstoppable JUNO-winning [Miss Emily](#) on March 3 & 4 and viral breakout star [Jack Broadbent](#) on April 14 & 15. Learn more about the full season lineup at artscommons.ca/pclblues.

Arts Commons is home to six resident companies, including Arts Commons Presents, which brings speaker series, concerts, and other live experiences to Calgary to enrich the city’s diverse cultural offerings. We can’t wait to share the power of the arts with you!

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MEDIA RELEASE



What: PCL Blues – Kevin Burt
Where: Arts Commons (Engineered Air Theatre)
When: Friday, January 20 & Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 8 p.m.
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/burt

To purchase tickets to Kevin Burt, or enquire about any 2022-23 Arts Commons Presents performances, please call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/blues.

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:
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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, Jazz, PCL Blues, and TD Amplify Cabarets, as well as the work that we do in the community. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on a multitude of levels.

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