

For Immediate Release

Classic Albums Live and Arts Commons Presents Rock the Jack Singer Concert Hall with Billy Joel's Breakout Album – The Stranger

Second performance in fan-favourite Arts Commons Presents series showcases daughter of the Canadian Prairies Ollee Owens with an exclusive preshow performance on the duet stage of Jack Singer Lobby

November 8, 2022 - CALGARY – A single album transformed the career of its creator, catapulting him to worldwide stardom. That album was *The Stranger* by artist Billy Joel. With unimpeachable reverence for the original work, the talented musicians of Classic Albums Live bring this seminal album to life on **Saturday, November 19, 2022** in the Jack Singer Concert Hall for **Billy Joel: The Stranger**.

After four albums failed to reach commercial success, the mid-1970s saw Billy Joel facing a dark time in his career. Columbia Records was considering dropping him from the label and he was facing the end of his musical aspirations before he'd even gotten started. *The Stranger*, released in 1976, changed everything. Nearly overnight, Billy Joel became a household name and hits like *Just the Way You Are*, *Movin' Out*, *Only the Good Die Young*, and *Scenes From an Italian Restaurant* became radio standards. The album ruminates on life in New York City from Joel's deeply personal perspective – mixing the mundane and the absurd of city life and exploring the invisible pressure of the American Dream.

"Billy Joel has a work ethic that would rival The Beatles and Prince. He's always striving for better," says Craig Martin, founder of Classic Albums Live. "He has a master's touch. We have to be at the very top of our game to play these arrangements. The Stranger is his masterpiece."

Along with Classic Albums Live's cast of all-star Canadian musicians, Arts Commons Presents is proud to share the 2022-23 season of historic albums, painstakingly recreated live on stage. The series is currently in its fifth season at Arts Commons, which was expanded from three to four concerts due to popular demand. In September, they brought **U2: The Joshua Tree** to the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Coming up later in the season is **Heart: Dreamboat Annie** on February 10, 2023, and **Pink Floyd: The Dark Side of the Moon 50th Anniversary** on April 22, 2023. Past highlights include sell-out performances of *The Beatles: Abbey Road*, *Pink Floyd: The Wall*, and *Credence Clearwater Revival: Chronicle 1*, which was the centerpiece of Arts Commons' free outdoor music event in 2021, *Showtime: A Live Music Celebration*.

In addition to welcoming thousands of classic music lovers to the Jack Singer Concert Hall each season, Arts Commons Presents takes every opportunity to elevate local musicians and expose their undeniable talent to the greater Calgary community. For Billy Joel's *The Stranger*, we welcome singer/songwriter Ollee Owens to the Duet Stage. With bluesy rhythms mixed with rich, lyrical song writing, her resonate sound lives up to the title of her newly released debut album, *Cannot Be Unheard*.

Each concert by Classic Albums Live follows a tried-and-true formula: recreating these treasured pieces of music history down to each precise detail. Act two opens up the repertoire, and the onstage banter, to cover the artist's biggest hits from their entire catalogue. This way, fans get the best of both worlds – the album they know and love, and a party atmosphere where singing and dancing is encouraged. **For tickets, call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/CAL.**

What: Classic Albums Live, Billy Joel: The Stranger

MEDIA RELEASE



When: Saturday, November 19, 2022
Where: Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Tickets: artscommons.ca/thestranger or call 403-294-9494
Preshow: Ollee Owens

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, Arts Commons Presents encompasses the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and Jazz. Arts Commons Presents programming also includes the work that we do alongside and in collaboration with community partners, like the summer outdoor pop-up performance series, ArtsXpeditions, and professional development programs to support Calgary's local artists.