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For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Presents' Strings for Peace Showcases Harmonious Music that Connects the World with World-Renowned Maestro Amjad Ali Khan

North American guitar and Indian sarod interplay in complex musical conversation from two masters of stringed instruments, Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and Sharon Isbin in exclusive Canadian appearance

March 8, 2023 - CALGARY – Music is a language that transcends boundaries and builds bridges between cultures and peoples, and no better is that demonstrated than with *Strings for Peace* as part of **BD&P World Stage** series from **Arts Commons Presents**. Featuring two masters, Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and multi-GRAMMY Award-winning Sharon Isbin, *Strings for Peace* blends North Indian classical sarod with North American classical guitar for an evening of meditative music. Join Arts Commons Presents for [Strings for Peace](#) featuring Sharon Isbin and Maestro Amjad Ali Khan on **Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**

Strings for Peace is steeped in the tradition of ragas and talas of North Indian classical music performed by sarod master Amjad Ali Khan, his virtuoso sons Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash, and Juilliard School guitar department founder Sharon Isbin. The Times of India said about the 2019 tour “[the musicians] crossed barriers of language, culture, uniting people through music and melody ... the power of their performance rocked the hall!” and the Asian Age called it “A first of its kind truly spectacular international music experience!”

The groundbreaking collaboration began when Maestro Amjad Ali Khan was inspired to reach out to Sharon Isbin with thoughts of embarking on a future project together. A legendary sarod performer and acclaimed composer, Maestro Amjad Ali Khan is a Gold Medal Winner from the Global Music Awards for his outstanding contribution to the global music industry and has been awarded numerous other honours including Unicef's National Ambassadorship and The Padma Vibhushan, which is the second-highest civilian award of the Republic of India. He is seen regularly at the greatest stages in the world including Carnegie Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Esplanade Singapore, and the Kennedy Center.

Founder of the guitar department at Juilliard, Sharon Isbin is a multi-GRAMMY Award-winning musician and producer whose career has been distinguished by her passion for blending her own classical guitar style with different musical sensibilities than her own, including high profile collaborations with Mexican composer Manuel Ponce and singer Josh Groban. **Interviews are available with Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and Sharon Isbin prior to their Calgary engagement on request.**



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The two music juggernauts came together to hone the perfect blend of their two styles of music, and in February 2019, Maestro Ali Khan, his two sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, and Sharon Isbin embarked on a tour to bring their powerful message of music to the world. Arts Commons Presents is thrilled to be welcoming these master musicians in their only scheduled Canadian appearance.

“Language creates barriers, but music always connects people,” says Maestro Amjad Ali Khan. “Music doesn’t belong to any religion. Like flowers, air, fire, they don’t belong to any religion. Only seven music notes have connected the whole world. Music has connected the world.”

“Strings for Peace is a completely unique performance that shares an incredible message – we all speak the same language through music,” says Stephanie Hutchinson, manager of programming. “It’s a treat to be able to host these music masters from such different yet alike music traditions in a space like the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

The 2022-23 season of the BD&P World Stage series from Arts Commons Presents, features an outstanding lineup of performers that celebrated a diversity of live arts from around the globe including the heart-pounding rhythms of YAMATO – Drummers of Japan, the percussive perfection of [Step Afrika! Drumfolk](#), Reggae icon [Luciano the Messenjah](#), and the showstopping double-bill of [The Soul Rebels & CimaFunk](#).

What: BD&P World Stage: *Strings for Peace*
When: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/stringsforpeace
Preshow: Pre-show & Intermission Lobby Performance by: Raj Rangayyan and Sujeev Choha

To purchase tickets to BD&P World Stage: *Stings for Peace* featuring Sharon Isbin and Maestro Amjad Ali Khan, please call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/stringsforpeace.

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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, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and Jazz, 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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