

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Presents Features GRAMMY-Winning Vocalist Kurt Elling on Stage with “Guitar Master” Charlie Hunter in SuperBlue

June 7, 2022 - CALGARY – Multi-GRAMMY Award winning jazz vocalist Kurt Elling returns to Calgary with **SuperBlue**, a high-energy exploration into funk, employing his signature groove in a fresh new way. Join Arts Commons Presents for **SuperBlue: Kurt Elling featuring Charlie Hunter** as part of **TD Jazz** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** on **June 23, 2022**.

One of the world’s most prominent jazz vocalists, Kurt Elling is praised internationally for his theatrical performance style, rich baritone, and four octave range. Over his career he has gained huge acclaim, winning three Prix du Jazz Vocal (France), two German Echo Awards, two Dutch Edison Awards, and has been nominated for a GRAMMY award fifteen times with two wins. His most recent album, SuperBlue, has been lauded as “Elling as you’ve never heard him before” as he “uses every octave at his disposal” to bring a funk sound to this classic crooner.



SuperBlue was conceived and created in the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, a completely new process for the collaborative Elling. Separated by 1000 miles, Corey Fonville and DJ Harrison of Butcher Brown met with guitarist Charlie Hunter to hammer out an assortment of grooves and tone for the album while Elling, from his home in Chicago, took the rhythm tracks and determined whether each piece called for new melodies or were better suited to existing compositions.



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“For those gifted young cats to give me the trust, and to vibe with me and be so enthusiastic about this project is a great compliment. It’s enlivening and even rejuvenating in the truest sense of the word,” says Kurt Elling. “As a jazz musician you’re always searching for the melody you haven’t played yet. I’m trying to dig deeper into the music that is the most compelling from the greatest of our forefathers and foremothers.”

Arts Commons Presents’ TD Jazz series has welcomed the best jazz performers from around the world and, after last season’s virtual presentations, we are excited to be returning to live, in-person performances. The 2021-22 season applauded New York’s rising stars with Jazz at Lincoln Center: *Songs We Love*, celebrated a milestone with the world premiere performance of the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra and now shares the GRAMMY Award winner, “a Sinatra with superpowers” himself, Kurt Elling featuring Charlie Hunter.

And just announced, the **2022-23 season** of Jazz from Arts Commons Presents is a lineup you don’t want to miss! From a virtuosic talent mentored by the great Wynton Marsalis himself, **Joey Alexander**, to a live jazz accompaniment to cherished cartoons by **The Queen’s Cartoonists**, to a performance from one of the greatest living legends in jazz and funk history, **Booker T. Jones** – the 2022-23 season of the Arts Commons Presents Jazz series will leave you buzzing with a rejuvenated appreciation for jazz music. Learn more at artscommons.ca/jazz.

What: TD Jazz – SuperBlue: Kurt Elling featuring Charlie Hunter
When: Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Preshow: Sanah Kadoura
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/kurtelling

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 third largest performing arts centre in 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 TD 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.

