

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Presents Brings Live Jazz and Cartoons to the Jack Singer Concert Hall with The Queen's Cartoonists

January 5, 2023 - CALGARY – The Queen's Cartoonists are on a mission to make jazz fun and accessible for every music fan, young or old. And what better way to accomplish this than by bringing the jazzy soundtrack of our favourite cartoons to life? Join **Arts Commons Presents** for an evening of family friendly fun with **The Queen's Cartoonists** as part of our **Jazz series** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** on **January 26, 2023**.

The Queen's Cartoonists put a new spin on old classics by playfully combining jazz music, imaginative foley techniques, and light-hearted comedy to a backdrop of new and classic cartoons and animation for an evening of musical enjoyment. The band provides live accompaniment in front of a larger-than-life screen of animated classics, combining them with witty anecdotes that demonstrate the importance of music, particularly jazz, in film. The result is an evening of musical excellence as well as slapstick silliness for every jazz fans in your family. Praised by critics as "an incredible band with very tight precision," (Tillamook County Pioneer), The Queen's Cartoonists have delighted audiences worldwide and have even opened for the New York Philharmonic.

Founded in 2015 by band leader and pianist Joel Pierson, The Queens Cartoonists consists of six musicians who reside in the New York City borough of Queens (hence the name). On a mission to spread their love of cartoons and the music that accompanies them around the world, the group stops in Calgary as part of their 2022-23 world tour. This performance, which will include animations from the National Film Board of Canada's catalogue, showcases the music that made figures such as Betty Boop, Popeye, and the Pink Panther so darned memorable. By highlighting the ubiquity of jazz—that you can find it everywhere, even in a children's cartoon—The Queen's Cartoonists make this style of music accessible and fun for all ages.

"There's a lot of stigma against jazz and classical music. There's this sense of 'Oh, that's not for me' or 'It's too complicated' and I don't think that's true. I think we just need the right kind of exposure" says Joel Pierson of The Queen's Cartoonists. "You know, cartoons were created introducing classical music to people — everyone learned some Wagner and Rossini from Bugs Bunny and that kind of stuff. So I thought maybe I could do that with musicians and a band."

Arts Commons Presents' Jazz series has welcomed the best jazz performers from around the world. The 2021-22 season applauded New York's rising stars with Jazz at Lincoln Center: *Songs We Love* and made history with the world premiere of the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra. The current season now brings the The Queen's Cartoonists to the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage for an acclaimed performance merging joy, play, and jazz.

The rest of the **2022-23 season** of Jazz from Arts Commons Presents promises a lineup you won't want to miss, including one of the greatest living legends in jazz and funk history, [Booker T: A Stax Revue](#) on February 25, 2023 and a rising star with the [Joey Alexander Trio](#) on April 28, 2023. 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.



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What: Jazz – The Queen’s Cartoonists
When: Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/cartoonists

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.



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