

For Immediate Release

New Orleans Jazz Meets Afro-Pop Fusion in Dynamic Double Bill with Arts Commons Presents for a Wild Non-Stop Party

June 1, 2023 - CALGARY – It's guaranteed that you've never witnessed a double bill like this before! The Soul Rebels honed their rollicking sound on the streets of New Orleans and burst onto the scene by collaborating with some of the biggest names in the business including Metallica, Katy Perry and Snoop Dog. They are joined by Havana sensation CimaFunk, who has been making waves with his layered grooves and infectious beats. Join Arts Commons Presents for **The Soul Rebels** and **CimaFunk** as the final presentation of the 2022-23 season of the **BD&P World Stage** series on **Friday, June 23, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Jack Singer Concert Hall**.

The Soul Rebels started with a simple idea. Infuse the pop hits they loved with the tradition of New Orleans brass that they grew up on. The result is a high-energy explosion of sound that begs you to get up and dance!

The Soul Rebels is a brass band comprised of percussionists and founding members Lumar LeBlanc and Derrick Moss, trumpet players Julian Gosin and Marcus Hubbard, trombonists Corey Peyton and Paul Robertson, saxophonist Erion Williams, and sousaphonist Manuel Perkins Jr. They have performed at high profile venues and festivals around the world, including the Hollywood Bowl and Brooklyn Bowl, as well as the Montreal Jazz Festival, Bonnaroo, and the Outside Lands Music and Arts Festival, among many others. The eight-piece band made its mark with boisterous covers of songs such as [Sweet Dreams Are Made of This](#) and [Get Lucky](#), with the former clocking nearly a million views on YouTube. These out-of-the-box covers opened the door to collaborations on stage that span the genres of pop, hip-hop, and jazz including Arcade Fire, Cee Lo Green, Metallica, Kanye West, Snoop Dogg, Seal, Katy Perry, Nas, Green Day, and so many more.

"What we found when we collaborate with other musicians, who love and who are serious about their craft, like Metallica, all of the formulas and instruments kind of just become one. And we look at each other as artists. And the mentality and the vibe from the heart and soul, which is most important, begins to connect," says founding member Lumar LeBlanc. "When two serious groups of musicians connect, they're not looking at us as a brass band, and we're not looking at them as a rock band – we're just one band. With all our collaboration we've had no problems at all. We've always been able to have the respect and the vibe."

Known for his "swirling melange of rumba and sticky bass lines" (Rolling Stone) and "wildly danceable collection of songs" (NPR), CimaFunk brings the funk to Cuban rhythms, playfully blending both to create his own unique sound. He was awarded Artist of the Year by Vistar Magazine and continues to sell-out venues across Cuba. CimaFunk will be accompanied by an eight-piece band including drummer and musical director Dr. Zapa, percussionist Machete, bassist Caramelo, guitarist Bejuco, pianist Arthurito el "Wao," saxophonist/back-up Singer Katy Cacao, trombonist/back-up singer Hilaria Cacao, and minor percussionist/back-up singer Big Happy.

"In Cuba they [the cimarrón] created a small village high in the mountains so that was the base of the Cuban flavor. For that reason, I chose Cima... funk because, for me, it was one of the things that pushed me... and

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the funk was the weight of all this movement. If you wanna dance, you have to have funk,” says Cimafunk. “The funk is everywhere.”

“The double bill of The Soul Rebels and Cimafunk is the perfect way to end the BD&P World Stage season. The energy of these performers is phenomenal, and I guarantee that audience members will want to get up and dance,” says Stephanie Hutchinson, Associate Director of Presenting at Arts Commons.

The Soul Rebels and Cimafunk on June 23rd concludes the 2022-23 season of the BD&P World Stage series produced by Arts Commons Presents, which featured an outstanding lineup of performers that celebrated a diversity of live arts from around the globe. YAMATO – The Drummers of Japan: *Hinotori* literally shook the walls of the Jack Singer Concert Hall, followed by the harmonious collaboration of *Strings for Peace* and the percussive perfection of Step Afrika!: *Drumfolk*. Subscriptions are on sale now for the showstopping 2023-24 season. From circus to contemporary dance, folk music and a film in concert, the BD&P World Stage series from Arts Commons Presents has your ticket to energizing, adventurous, and awe-inspiring performances. Learn more at artscommons.ca/world.

What: BD&P World Stage – The Soul Rebels and Cimafunk
When: Friday, June 23, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/presents

To purchase tickets to The Soul Rebels and Cimafunk please call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/soulcima.

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the Title Sponsor of BD&P World Stage, **Burnett, Duckworth & Palmer**, supporting sponsors **ALSA Road Construction** and **Servantage Services** as well as the **Government of Canada** through **Canadian Heritage**, the **Government of Alberta** through the **Alberta Foundation for the Arts**, and our friends at **The City of Calgary**.

For media inquiries or more information contact:

Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager
403-294-7429 abonyun@artscommons.ca

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.