

For Immediate Release

New Season of Arts Commons Presents Kicks Off with One of the Best-Selling Albums of All Time - U2: The Joshua Tree – from Classic Albums Live

September 1, 2022 - CALGARY – Welcome to the next season of **Arts Commons Presents!** The programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada located downtown Calgary, officially kicks off the 2022-23 season with **Classic Albums Live** and U2's iconic album, *The Joshua Tree*. Cementing their sound for a generation of fans, *The Joshua Tree* made history as the fastest-selling album in British history. Reproduced faithfully by the musical masters of **Classic Albums Live**, note for note, cut for cut, this is your chance to hear **U2: The Joshua Tree** like never before on **Thursday, September 22, 2022** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** at Arts Commons.



Photo courtesy of Classic Albums Live

Released in 1987, *The Joshua Tree* represented a new direction for U2 as they explored deeper song writing, gospel influences, and emotional introspection. Bono was inspired by the idea of a mythical America while on tour in the United States during the 80s. The album went through many revisions, different names, and was almost pulled from the presses at the eleventh hour. Fortunately for us, the album made it to shelves and became an instant hit, topping the charts in over 20 countries.

Today, it has sold over 25 million copies. And singles like *Where the Streets Have No Name*, *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*, and *With or Without You* remain top-played radio favourites over a quarter of a century later.

*"For many of us growing up in the prairies, the chance to see U2 perform *The Joshua Tree* live in concert just wasn't possible. To have Classic Albums Live recreate that musical moment in the Jack Singer Concert Hall is a dream come true," says Jennifer Johnson, VP of Programming at Arts Commons.*



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Along with Classic Albums Live founder Craig Martin and his cast of all-star Canadian musicians, Arts Commons Presents is proud to share the sixth season of Classic Albums Live in Calgary – the classic rock series that painstakingly recreates iconic albums in act one, and celebrates more hits from the band’s entire catalogue in act two. With previous sell-out performances of The Beatles: Abbey Road, Pink Floyd: The Wall, and Led Zeppelin: Led Zeppelin I, Calgarian music fans get the best of both worlds: the album they know and love played to perfection, and a sing-along party of non-stop hits.

“There’s a real thirst to hear these albums performed start to finish. For many of us, this is the music we grew up with – the soundtrack of our lives,” says Martin. “U2’s The Joshua Tree, there’s a reason why the record won GRAMMY of the Year. These songs endure and continue to connect. It’s a big band that’s needed to do this album, note for note. We have the right musicians in place for this show.”

The 2022-23 season of Classic Albums Live has expanded to four performances due to popular demand including Billy Joel’s breakout album The Stranger, Heart’s debut album Dreamboat Annie, and the 50th anniversary of Pink Floyd’s seminal work The Dark Side of the Moon. Don’t miss a beat! It’s your turn to experience it live. **For single tickets or a series subscription to all four shows, call the Arts Commons Box Office at 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/cal.**

Arts Commons is home to six resident companies, including Arts Commons Presents, which brings speaker series, concerts, and other live experiences to Calgary to enrich the city’s diverse cultural offerings. Amid shifting COVID-19 restrictions and cautious arts-goers, Arts Commons Presents shared the revitalizing energy of the arts with thousands of patrons through concerts, speaker series, and cabaret performances. To ensure that the arts were accessible to all members of our community, Arts Commons and Arts Commons Presents also distributed nearly eight thousand free tickets to individuals and families who were adversely affected by the pandemic. This season, we can’t wait to share the power of the arts with you!

What: Classic Albums Live, *U2: The Joshua Tree*
When: Thursday, September 22, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Duet stage: Natalie Inga
Tickets: artscommons.ca/joshuatree or call 403-294-9494

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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, 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.



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