

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Presents announces partnership with CKUA to complete 2020-21 season of PCL Blues series in state-of-the-art audio recordings

August 12, 2021 CALGARY – As arts organizations continue to find creative ways of reaching their audiences, the 2020-21 PCL Blues season from Arts Commons Presents is leaping from the stage to the radio waves. In a new partnership, Arts Commons will use its advanced sound equipment in the legendary Jack Singer Concert Hall, optimized to work with the new Canon video gear installed during the pandemic, to record audio performances of Canadian blues artists **Tim Williams: *Conversations in Blue***, **Miss Emily**, and **Rooster Davis** to air on CKUA's *Friday Night Blues Party* at 9 p.m. throughout the month of September.

"We can't wait to welcome audiences back into our theatres and public spaces, but in the meantime, sharing the longstanding PCL Blues series province-wide through CKUA is a wonderful way to showcase these exceptional Canadian artists," says Jennifer Johnson, VP of Programming at Arts Commons. "And with our recent technological upgrades, we've never been in a better position to do so."



Miss Emily Live in concert

As the live concert presentations of **Tim Williams: *Conversations in Blue*** and **Miss Emily** were postponed due to rising COVID-19 numbers and necessary AHS guidelines, Arts Commons Presents had to look beyond our theatres to share the love of live blues. A late addition to round out the series, **Rooster Davis** will be the third performance of PCL Blues for the 20-21 season. For these concert presentations, CKUA's *Friday Night Blues Party* was the natural choice of partner with its province-wide showcase of blues music.



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“Innovative thinking is central to the survival and success of the three partners in this special project to bring compelling music to audiences in Calgary and across Alberta,” says David Ward, Director of Programming at CKUA. “With financial support from PCL Construction and production expertise from Arts Commons, CKUA is excited to employ its broadcasting and streaming services for music lovers everywhere to enjoy this unique series of concerts.”

In the past, audio capture of this quality has not been possible but dark venues have offered up a unique opportunity for Arts Commons technical staff to pioneer in this field with the combination of a time-honoured venue with acoustic excellence and state-of-the-art equipment. Their reconfiguration the Jack Singer Concert Hall’s sound gear allows for Arts Commons to capture up to 56 channels of high-quality multitrack audio (96kHz) from every microphone or channel independently, as well as accomplish an entirely separate streaming or recorded mix with a technician mixing live in the sound booth.

“We’re very excited. Though this has been a very difficult time for the arts, the pandemic has given us the opportunity to explore new possibilities and ways of using our equipment,” says Arran Fisher, recording technician at Arts Commons. “We’ve been able to rout the recording through the hall’s new Opticore fibre optic connection which allows us to capture the highest standards of audio. Recording is simultaneously made to two separate systems for failsafe capturing. It took a lot of troubleshooting to get us to this point, but we’re absolutely thrilled with the result.”

Blues lovers and audiophiles alike will get a chance to enjoy these live concert recordings captured in the Jack Singer Concert Hall on CKUA’s *Friday Night Blues Party* at 9 p.m. on the following dates:

[Tim Williams: Conversations in Blue](#) – Friday, September 3

[Miss Emily](#) – Friday, September 10

[Rooster Davis](#) – Friday, September 17

In the coming months, Arts Commons Presents will announce details for the 2021-22 season of PCL Blues. Check back at artscommons.ca for more details in September.

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:

Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager

403-870-2810 abonyun@artscommons.ca

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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