

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

The 2020-21 season of TD Jazz with Arts Commons Presents making its virtual broadcast debut with cutting-edge Canon camera technology

August 5, 2021 CALGARY – Arts Commons is thrilled to announce that the TD Jazz series, currently in its eighth season of showcasing amazing jazz talent from around the world and close to home, will be shared with all of Calgary through the use of Arts Commons’ state-of-the-art [Canon Canada](#) technology installed this year in the Jack Singer Concert Hall. First to be captured in crystal clear definition from this storied stage will be B.C.-based JUNO nominee **Laila Biali** (broadcast Sunday, August 22) and the ultimate jazz dream team from the province, [Alberta Jazz All-Stars](#) feat. **PJ Perry and Al Muirhead** (broadcast Thursday, September 9). Both concerts will be **free to preregistered audiences and broadcast for one night only on artscommons.ca**.

Unveiled in February of this year, Arts Commons’ partnership with Canon Canada, a leader in digital imaging solutions, opened the door for a deeper exploration of arts and technology. Given the challenges placed on the performing arts sector by the COVID-19 pandemic, this area has never been more important. By forging new partnerships between these two fields, Arts Commons is innovating how the performance arts can be experienced and enjoyed – both virtually and IRL – as we move towards the new normal. The 20-21 season of TD Jazz will be a first major step in this work.

“Calgary is a city on the forefront of innovation and creativity, and we’re proud to be part of that energy as we bring our beloved TD Jazz series to the virtual landscape,” says Alex Sarian, President and CEO of Arts Commons. “The COVID-19 pandemic has made it obvious that the arts and tech sectors have only just begun to explore their relationship with one another and the opportunities are endless.”

Laila Biali, presented in association with JazzYYC as the closing performance of their 2021 TD Summer Jazz Festival, has charmed Canadian audiences coast to coast with her clever songwriting and light jazz vocals. She has energized the genre with her pop sensibilities and infectious melodies – not to mention her spot as the CBC Radio host of Saturday Night Jazz. A classically trained pianist, Laila has toured with the likes of Paula Cole, Chris Botti and Sting, who said “She is an exciting and unique talent.”

Her undeniable energy has not gone unrecognized with numerous award wins including the 2019 JUNO award for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year, a SOCAN award for Composer of the Year, and DownBeat Magazine’s “Best Albums of the Year” for Live in Concert (2013). Her latest album Out of Dust (2020) earned another JUNO nomination and shines a surprisingly intimate light to her own experience dealing with recent loss and illness, viewed through a lens that is both stimulating and cathartic.

Alberta Jazz All-Stars brings a never-before-seen collection of Alberta’s best jazz musicians to the Jack Singer stage, led by two award-winning greats: Order of Canada recipient and alto sax player PJ Perry, and Al Muirhead, the “Elder statesman of Jazz Trumpet in Alberta,” two stars who have shared the stage and studio for six decades, building a legacy of musical excellence and showbiz stories.



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Laila Biali, photography by Julia Hembree

Together, Perry and Muirhead have built their jazz dream team: from trombonist Audrey Ochoa, to pianist Chris Andrew, to the granddaughter of the Edmonton legend Tommy Banks, vocalist Mallory Chipman, plus Bob Tildesley, Dave Laing, Jim Brennan, Kodi Hutchinson, and Pat Belliveau.

Join Arts Commons Presents for two performances celebrating the return of jazz to the Jack Singer Concert Hall – **Laila Biali on Sunday, August 22 at 8 p.m.** and **Alberta Jazz All-Stars on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** Both presentations are free to watch, but preregistration is required.

For more information, please visit artscommons.ca/tjazz.

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



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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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