

For Immediate Release

Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken Celebrate Twenty Years of *American Idol* at the Jack Singer Concert Hall with Arts Commons Presents

August 8, 2023 - CALGARY – Arts Commons Presents kicks off the 2023-24 season of star-studded performances with two of the most beloved *American Idol* contestants ever – Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken. This special presentation launches the Canadian leg of *Twenty | The Tour* in Calgary, celebrating 20 years since their memorable television appearance and the beginning of their enduring friendship. Join **Arts Commons Presents** for **Ruben & Clay: *Twenty | The Tour*** on **Friday, September 29, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons**. Learn more at artscommons.ca/rubenclay.

Taking the second season of *American Idol* by storm, this irresistible duo made for ratings gold, nearly tripling the viewership from the previous season. With over 38 million viewers casting more than 124 million votes, their nail-biting finale remains the most watched *American Idol* episode in history. Studdard took home first prize, with Aiken as a very close runner-up, but despite being competitors on screen, Studdard and Aiken struck up an immediate friendship. They have brought this friendship to the stage, performing frequently together over the course of their 20-year career.

In Aiken’s words, *“We don’t get to choose our family. Most family is predetermined by blood; some are predestined by God to come into our lives. I’ve got one brother who was born into my family and one brother who the good Lord introduced me to in 2003.”*

Since their now iconic television finale, they’ve taken their vocal talent around the globe and continue to demonstrate the star power that it took to win the hearts of millions of fans. Together they have toured the United States 14 times, starred together on Broadway, and sold more than eight million albums worldwide. Studdard has been nominated for two GRAMMY Awards, and won two Billboard Music Awards, among other accolades. Aiken has brought home five Billboard Music Awards and made numerous television appearances including *30 Rock*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, and *Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?*

Together Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken make a pitch-perfect duo of undeniable talent. They have been praised for “show-stopping performances” (The Columbus Dispatch) that are “truly something special,” (Nippertown). Their concert in Calgary is the first of only two Canadian dates on their North American tour. For their Calgary performance, they’ll revisiting these nostalgic moments with songs like “Flying Without Wings,” “Ain’t Too Proud to Beg,” and “Bridge Over Troubled Water.” **To take your Ruben and Clay experience to the next level, check out our VIP package, available for purchase now at artscommons.ca/rubenclay.**

“It’s a rare opportunity to see one of these fabulous performers on the Jack Singer stage, let alone two!” says Stephanie Hutchinson, Associate Director of Presenting at Arts Commons. *“Whether you witnessed their iconic television moment, became enchanted by their silky baritone voices over the course of their expansive careers, or are just meeting them for the first time, this is a concert that everyone will enjoy.”*

MEDIA RELEASE



Arts Commons Presents launches the 2023-24 season with performances from around the world and close to home. Outside of the three signature series of BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, and National Geographic Live, Arts Commons Presents also shares special presentations that are just too good to pass up! Starting with the all-star duo of **Ruben & Clay: *Twenty | The Tour* on Friday, September 29, 2023**, Arts Commons Presents invites you to experience Calgary's celebrity songstress for ***A Jann Arden Christmas* on December 19 & 20, 2023**, and a unique orchestral performance narrated by Jann Arden, **National Geographic Film Concert: *Secrets of the Whales* on April 21 - 23, 2024**. To learn about all the shows in the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents, visit acpresents.ca.

What: Arts Commons Presents – Ruben & Clay: Twenty | The Tour
When: Friday, September 29, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/rubenclay

Arts Commons Presents wishes to express our sincere appreciation to our friends at The City of Calgary for their support of this special presentation.

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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 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, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, TD Amplify Cabarets, as well as special presentations and our outdoor pop-up series, ArtsXpeditions. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists to perform, exhibit, reach new audiences, and grow on a multitude of levels.