

For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Presents Showcases Virtuoso Talent of 19-Year-Old GRAMMY-Nominated Pianist with the Joey Alexander Trio

April 13, 2023 - CALGARY – Receiving his first GRAMMY Award nomination at age 12, jazz pianist and composer Joey Alexander has enchanted the world with his remarkable talent and dexterity that is far beyond his years. He makes his Calgary debut for this exclusive Canadian engagement with a performance from the Joey Alexander Trio. Join Arts Commons Presents for the **Joey Alexander Trio** as part of our **Jazz series** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** on **April 28, 2023**.

One of the genre’s most celebrated new talents, Joey Alexander racked up three GRAMMY Award nominations before the age of 16. Widely considered a master of piano, Alexander was mentored by Wynton Marsalis and now emerges as a composer and band leader in his own right. Heralded by critics as one of jazz’s “guiding lights” (LA Art Party) whose “effortless pianism always hits the right notes” (Downbeat Magazine), Alexander has played for world leaders, such as Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, and has been profiled on *60 Minutes*.

The 19-year-old Alexander comes to Calgary in support of his latest album *Origin*, which marks his transition from a new sensation to an established artist with a long career ahead of him. His sixth album, *Origin* offers a hopeful meditation on time as told through the progression of the seasons, showcasing Alexander’s dazzling skill while displaying a mature sophistication not yet explored by the artist. For this performance he will be joined by bassist Kris Funn and drummer John Davis with Alexander himself performing on the clear notes of the Jack Singer Concert Hall’s Steinway piano.

Taking a new approach, one that is both reflective and experimental, was priority for Alexander on *Origin*. *“During this pandemic, I think the first thing we should do is to start with being hopeful, which is the main theme of Origin. Instead of making it a source of frustration, I made it the source of inspiration to express myself in music,”* Alexander says.

The pandemic also provided the opportunity for Alexander to come to terms with his growth as an artist. “A lot of amazing moments happened during that span,” he says. “This was the first time I had a break to pause and appreciate it all. That’s when I realized the pandemic actually helped me to be more thankful.”

“There’s something truly special about Joey Alexander and what he brings to the world of jazz. If you haven’t heard him live, this is an incredible opportunity,” says Stephanie Hutchinson, Associate Director of Presenting. *“I can’t think of a better way to bring this jazz season to a beautiful close.”*

This performance by the Joey Alexander Trio culminates the 2022-23 season of Arts Commons Presents’ Jazz series. This season brought the uplifting and light-hearted mix of live jazz and classic cartoons with The Queen’s Cartoonists, followed by a sold-out performance by the legendary Booker T. Jones in *A Stax Revue* in a performance that brought down the house. Past seasons have included jazz greats from around the world and made history with the world premiere performance of the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra in 2022. Stay tuned for exciting announcements from the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents coming up this spring at artscommons.ca/presents.

What: Jazz – The Joey Alexander Trio

MEDIA RELEASE



When: Friday, April 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Pre-Show: Lorna MacLachlan Trio presented in partnership with JazzYYC
Who: Arts Commons Presents
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/joeyalexander

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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, 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.