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Kay Meek Arts Centre Announces its 20th Anniversary Season

May 31, 2024, West Vancouver, BC - The 2024/25 Season marks 20 years since West Vancouver's **Kay Meek Arts Centre** first opened its doors, and since then has welcomed artists from across the Lower Mainland and beyond, presenting live music, theatre and dance, as well as film, visual arts, school performances and community events.

"Our 20th anniversary season is all about people. From the amazing gift made by Kay Meek herself, to our donors, sponsors and volunteers, and the many local and international artists who have performed in our space over the years. And, of course, to our audience and community. We can't wait to share our 2024/25 Season with all of you." Melissa Duchak, Kay Meek Executive Director

The coming season of events planned in celebration include the party of the year! A **20th Anniversary Gala** celebration planned for **November 23rd** is a two-part event beginning with dinner and entertainment by **Jens Lindemann** and **Ian Parker**, followed by a high-energy performance by the new Canadian supergroup, the **Trans-Canada Highwaymen**.

Kicking off the **Resonate Series** on **September 28th** is 19-year-old pianist and Canadian superstar in the making, **Kevin Chen**. Kevin was the first prize winner at the Franz Liszt Competition (Budapest) and the Concours de Genève and we are excited to be presenting him on the Grosvenor stage this fall.

From the ancient city of Fes, Morocco, is the internationally acclaimed singer **Lamia Naki** and her ensemble **Seffarine**. They will perform as part of our intimate **Cabaret Series**, **November 30th** and **December 1st**. Their music has been described by Bass Player Magazine as, "*A gorgeous intersection of Spanish flamenco, Arabic and Andalusian music, Persian classical and jazz.*"

Explore the question, "What if Juliet decided not to die" in the acclaimed play by Pippa Mackie and Ryan Gladstone, **Juliet: A Revenge Comedy** running from **December 4-8th** is part of our **Play Series**. Juliet breaks out of her endless tragic loop and recruits a team of Shakespeare's most famous female characters to find out why they've all been forced to die.

The international jazz sensation, **Stella Cole** performs April 25th as part of the **Amplify Series**. Cole's silky-smooth covers by Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Judy Garland and Billie Eilish, her rich vocal tone and extraordinary control transcends generations of music from traditional jazz standards to mainstream pop.

Dancers of Damelahamid bring the multimedia dance production, ***Spirit and Tradition*** to the Grosvenor Theatre April 26th. Through the sharing of Indigenous knowledge and artistic practices of interconnectedness and community, this performance layers coastal masked dances with projected imagery, soundscape, and LED puppetry. Be immersed in the rich and diverse ecosystem of the Northwest Coast.

The above is just a highlight from the 37 different concerts and events that make up Kay Meek's 20th anniversary season. For full details on the season, please visit our new website at KAYMEEK.COM.

Come celebrate with us! Subscriptions are on sale now.

ABOUT KAY MEEK ARTS CENTRE

The Kay Meek Arts Centre is a professional arts venue offering world-class arts experiences and opportunities for the communities across the lower mainland. Presenting more than 350 performances, to over 60,000 people every year the venue provides a space for artistic excellence for professional artists, youth and community groups.

KAY MEEK ARTS CENTRE 2024/25 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Images from the 2024/25 Season can be [downloaded](#) from here.

AMPLIFY SERIES

Blue Moon Marquee

Sat, Nov 2, 7:30 pm

Juno-award winning duo carve a path through blues, jazz, jump jive, folk country, swing and indigenous soul – with special guest Darcy Phillips and Paul Pigat.

Stephane Wrembel

Fri, Jan 24, 7:30 pm

One of the finest guitar players in the world and “the living face of Gypsy jazz”. With special guest jazz pianist Jean-Michel Pilc.

Yagódy

Tue, Apr 15, 7:30 pm

This all-female modern Ukrainian folk quartet brings a diverse and energetic mix of melody, rhythm and brilliant showmanship to the music of their homeland.

Stella Cole

Fr, Apr 25, 7:30 pm

International sensational Stella Cole’s silky-smooth covers and her rich vocal tone transcend generations of music from traditional jazz standards to main-stream pop.

The Bad Plus

Sat, May 16, 7:30 pm

The Bad Plus are the ultimate originals, a genre-bridging jazz fusion quartet working in perfect harmony.

CABARET SERIES

Iona Fyfe

Sept 26 & 27, 7:30 pm

Iona Fyfe is one of Scotland’s finest folk singers, whose versatility reflects jazz, Americana and more.

Get Back Unplugged

Oct 24 & 25, 7:30 pm

A nostalgic re-imagining of The Beatles feature some of Vancouver’s favourite musicians.

Seffarine

Nov 30 & Dec 1, 7:30 pm

A gorgeous intersection of Spanish flamenco, Arabic and Andalusian music, Persian classical and jazz.

Petunia & The Vipers

Jan 16 & 17, 7:30 pm

A high-energy ensemble bridging genres from the 1920s to the 1970s with an original twist.

The Slokan Rambles

Feb 22 & 23, 7:30 pm

Award-winning Canadian bluegrass band known for their energetic live shows and gold, upbeat sound.

Le Ren

Apr 3 & 4, 7:30 pm

Lauren Spear, the voice of Le Ren, is a folksinger known for her lilting melodies and deeply felt lyrics.

RESONATE SERIES**Kevin Chen**

Sat, Sept 28, 7:30 pm

First prize winner at the Franz Liszt Competition (Budapest) and the Concours de Genève, 19-year-old pianist Kevin Chen is a Canadian superstar in the making.

Duo Cordelia

Sun, Nov 3, 3 pm

Violinist Vanessa Marcoux and pianist Marie-Christine Poirier perform a rich tapestry of classical repertoire, traditional melodies and original compositions.

VSO Chamber Players

Sun, Dec 1, 3 pm

Join players of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in this musician-curated program for an intimate afternoon of chamber music.

Tom Allen: J.S. Bach's Long Walk in the Snow

Sun, Mar 16, 3pm

A narrated performance accompanied by music. Join master-storyteller and CBC broadcaster, Tom Allen, and friends, as he tells the story of a young Johann Sebastian Bach and his coming-of-age odyssey.

New Orford String Quartet with Ian Parker

Sat, May 17, 7:30 pm

The New Orford String Quartet perform Beethoven *Op. 131* and join forces with Artistic Advisor Ian Parker for Brahms's magnificent *Piano Quintet in F Minor*.

PLAY SERIES

Sexy Laundry

Oct 10 & 11, 7:30 pm

In an effort to rekindle the magic in their 25-year marriage, Alice and Henry go on a naughty hotel retreat, equipped with a copy of *Sex for Dummies*.

Juliet: A Revenge Comedy

Dec 4 – 8, 7:30 pm (matinee: 3pm)

Juliet breaks out of her endless tragic loop and recruits a team of Shakespear's most famous female characters to find out why they've all been forced to die. A Monster Theatre production

Someone Like You

Jan 9 & 10, 7:30 pm

Set in East Vancouver, a millennial take on the mistaken identities of Cyrano de Bergerac.

Ring of Fire

Mar 20 & 21, 7:30 pm

Let the songbook of the iconic storyteller Johnny Cash guide you on a journey of struggle and success, love and redemption.

Epidermis Circus

Apr 10 & 11, 7:30 pm

Watch as a Jim Henson Company puppeteer creates a live puppet film using only household objects, a camera and her bare hands. Produced by SNAFU Society of Unexpected Spectacles.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

After the Gold Rush – Reimagined

Oct 18 & 19, 7:30 pm

The eighth edition of our Steve Dawson-led iconic album extravaganza celebrates Neil Young's eclectic third album, *After the Gold Rush*.

Norman Foote and The Howl Masquerade

Oct 30, 7 pm

Where music, laughter and the spirit of Halloween all come together. Community connections make this concert a true family favourite.

Michael Kaeshammer

Dec 6, 7:30 pm

A perennial favourite, the charismatic pianist Michael Kaeshammer returns with his dynamic jazz-based pop.

You're the Top! The Cole Porter Songbook

Jan 25, 7:30 pm

Michael van den Bos celebrates the music of Cole Porter performed live by The Laura Crema Sextet, intermingled with classic Hollywood film clips.

Grant Lawrence & Friends

Apr 12, 7:30 pm

Vancouver's own award-winning raconteur-extraordinaire, Grant Lawrence returns for an evening of stories and songs.

Dancers of Damelahamid: Spirit and Tradition

Apr 26, 7:30 pm

A multimedia dance production, Spirit and Tradition is an immersive experience into the indigenous culture of the Northwest Coast and its vast ecosystem.

Gravity & Other Myths: A Simple Space

May 22, 7:30 pm

Backed by the driving rhythm of a live percussionist, seven acrobats push their physical limites to the extreme. From the Australian-based circus company *Gravity and Other Myths*.

VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

Sun, Oct 20 | 2 PM

A tribute to the power of romantic music, featuring 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' by Rachmaninoff - with Ian Parker as soloist and conductor.

Music at the Movies: A Tribute to John Williams

Sun, Nov 17 | 2 PM

From *Jaws* to *Harry Potter*, John Williams is Hollywood's best-loved and most prolific film composer.

Kay Meek Concerto Competition Winner

Sun, Feb 9 | 2 PM

Journey through the emotional landscapes, sweeping melodies and dramatic depths of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5.

Violinist Jonathan Crow and Holst's The Planets

Sat, May 24 | 7:30 PM

Don't miss Jonathan Crow performing Mendelssohn's iconic Violin Concerto, followed by a journey through our solar system with Gustav Holst's The Planets.

SPEAKER SERIES

Razzle Dazzle Divas

Tue, Oct 22 | 7 PM

Michael van den Bos returns with a spotlight on the sensational ladies of song and dance who lit up movie screens in the golden era of Hollywood.

A Portrait of a Portraitist: Jane Billaux

Tue, Nov 19 | 7 PM

Explore the life and work of this prolific English portraitist who came to West Vancouver from London, England in the 1930s. Presented in partnership with the West Vancouver Art Museum.

Gene Kelly: Hollywood's Dance Auteur

Tue, Feb 25 | 7 PM

Join classic film scholar, Michael van den Bos in an exploration into the work of the multi-talented musical theatre superstar, Gene Kelly.

Cut Loose! Fame, Flashdance & Footloose & the Musicals of the 1980s

Tue, Apr 1 | 7 PM

Go back to the 80s for this retro revue clip-show of that decade's big screen musical performances. Get ready to cut footloose and have the time of your life!

Local Landscapes: Irene Hoffar Reid

Tue, May 6 | 7 PM

Explore the life and work of this former West Vancouver resident who was one of the first women to graduate from the Vancouver School of Art in the 1920s. Presented in partnership with the West Vancouver Art Museum.