

## **The FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre announces 2022/2023 Season, free summer programming and Celebration of Nations marquee concerts!**

**MEDIA RELEASE** Thurs 9 June 2022 St. Catharines, Ontario.  
*Please post/circulate to your lists and networks.*

The FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre announced their full 2022/2023 season to a sold-out audience on Thursday night in Partridge Hall after two unprecedented years of change and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PAC is back and ready to make each day come alive through inspiring and engaging artistic experiences for and with the community.

The upcoming season is jam-packed with inspiring musicians, unforgettable productions, local favourites, as well as celebrated artists who will be performing in Niagara for the very first time.

The 22/23 season will feature over 60 performances by Canadian and international artists including: **Serena Ryder, Jann Arden, The Tenors, Big Wreck, Tom Cochrane with Red Rider, Johnny Reid, The Robert Cray Band, William Prince, Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, Shaun Majumder, Gowan, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, Ali Hassan, Canada's Ballet Jörgen: *Anne of Green Gables - The Ballet*<sup>®</sup>, The Mark Lalama Trio with guests Molly Johnson / Sarah Slean / Daniel Romano, The Men of the Deeps, Classic Albums Live Series, Ballet Edmonton, The Original Wailers, Cirque Kalabanté, DakhaBrakha, Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, Jaber Dance Theatre, The Irish Rovers, Bachman & Bachman, Just For Laughs Roadshow, Jesse Cook, Kid Koala's Satellite Turntable Orchestra, Andy Shauf** and many more.

"I invite the community to join us again and again for the upcoming season and encourage your friends and family to do the same. I know I speak for the whole PAC team when I say how much we look forward to making new memories with you," says **Sara Palmieri, Director of Programming and Marketing**.

The community is invited to become a PAC Member and get great perks such as ordering tickets before the public and saving up to 25% off regular ticket prices. Renewing Members can purchase tickets as of Tues 14 June at 11 am and New Members can purchase tickets as of Tues 21 June at 11 am. All remaining tickets go on sale to the public on Tues 28 June at 11 am.

Also announced on Thursday evening were two marquee concerts headlining the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Nations Gathering** taking place at the PAC **9-11 Sept 2022**. Celebration of Nations (CofN) is an annual gathering of Indigenous Arts, Culture and Heritage curated by Artistic Director, Michele-Elise Burnett (Métis with Algonquin roots, Bear Clan) and Artistic Producer, Tim Johnson (Mohawk). Part of the PAC's year-round programming, Celebration of Nations reaches a crescendo on the weekend after Labour Day annually with a three-day gathering that showcases a wide variety of

Indigenous arts, artists, and leaders ranging from traditional and contemporary music and dance, visual arts to film screenings, creative workshops, eye-opening teachings, and hands-on activities.

Kicking off the gathering on **Fri 9 Sept 2022** will be a brand-new concert experience **First Ladies of Jazz** produced by CofN Artistic Producer, Tim Johnson in partnership with the TD Niagara Jazz Festival. The concert will feature a stellar cast of musicians and will highlight the music of jazz greats Mildred Bailey, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald. On **Sat 10 Sept 2022** the legendary **Buffy Sainte-Marie** will headline a concert in Partridge Hall. Sainte-Marie was part of the inaugural CofN in 2017. Her performance in September is just one week prior to an event at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa celebrating and recognizing her decades of work, artistry and advocacy.

As the community leans into the summer, the PAC created a **free outdoor concert and film series** which kicks off on Sat 9 July and runs every Saturday through to the end of August. Celebrated and award-winning musicians will perform from 5-7pm out front of the PAC on St. Paul Street and a selection of music documentaries, classic and family-fun films will be screened under the stars in the Mann Raceway Plaza (the backyard of the PAC). This is a moment for the community to come back downtown to celebrate and be together for shared arts experiences and to support local businesses.

"Now is finally the time for reconnection, and the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre is ready and waiting for you," says **CEO, Colleen A. Smith**. "We can't wait for you to find your way back, friends. Welcome home."

For a full listing of events and details, visit [www.firstontariopac.ca](http://www.firstontariopac.ca)

To order a 22/23 membership, purchase season tickets and donate to the PAC to support free summer programming, visit [www.firstontariopac.ca](http://www.firstontariopac.ca), call the Box Office at 905-688-0722 or visit in person at 250 St. Paul Street, downtown St. Catharines.

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM/TWITTER: @firstontpac  
[FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre 22/23 Season – Digital Program](#)

To arrange media interviews, please contact Jeff Hardy, Marketing and Communications Manager at [jhardy@firstontariopac.ca](mailto:jhardy@firstontariopac.ca)

The FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre acknowledges the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the City of St. Catharines, our long-time partnership with Brock University and our donors, sponsors and members for their ongoing support.

22/23 Season sponsors include FirstOntario Credit Union, CAA Niagara, DJB Human Resources Advisory, Allstate Insurance, Critelli's Furniture, PetValu Vansickle and PetValu on the Lane. The 2022 edition of Celebration of Nations is sponsored by Brock University.

The FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre is located downtown St. Catharines, Ontario on the shared traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Neutral Peoples and many other Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We offer our sincere gratitude and respect to the original and continued stewards of this land. We also acknowledge Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, and 2SLGBTQQAI+ that have been marginalized for centuries and more - and our collective responsibility to take action for a better world free from oppression, discrimination and racism. The PAC aims to provide meaningful opportunities to bring our community together in a place of mutual understanding, empathy, and respect through the arts.

**EVENT LISTINGS ON FOLLOWING PAGE →**

## FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre 22/23 Season

On sale to members Tues 21 June 2022 at 11am

On sale to the public Tues 28 June 2022 at 11am

- Thurs 29 Sept 2022: Tom Cochrane with Red Rider
- Tues 4 Oct 2022: The Tenors – Now and Forever
- Fri 7 Oct – Sat 8 Oct 2022: Canada's Ballet Jörgen: *Anne of Green Gables - The Ballet*®
- Thurs 13 Oct 2022: Johnny Reid – Love Someone Tour
- Thurs 20 Oct 2022: Gord's Legacy featuring Susan Aglukark, Tom Wilson, Phil Davis, and The Poets
- Sun 23 Oct 2022: Hear! Here! Series w/ The Mark Lalama Trio featuring Molly Johnson
- Thurs 27 Oct 2022: The Men of the Deeps
- Sat 29 Oct 2022: Celebration of Nations Music Showcase
- Wed 2 Nov 2022: Classic Albums Live: Aretha Franklin - *Aretha's Gold*
- Fri 11 Nov 2022: Serena Ryder with Clerel
- Wed 16 Nov 2022: The Robert Cray Band
- Thurs 17 Nov 2022: William Prince
- Fri 18 Nov – Sat 19 Nov 2022: *How to Fail as a Pop Star* by Vivek Shraya
- Wed 30 Nov 2022: Blackie and the Rodeo Kings w/ Digging Roots
- Thurs 1 Dec 2022: Shaun Majumder
- Sun 4 Dec 2022: *Alice in Wonderland*
- Wed 7 Dec 2022: Gowan
- Wed 14 Dec – Thurs 15 Dec 2022: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy – A Celtic Family Christmas
- Sun 18 Dec 2022: The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra – A Very Swingin' Basie Christmas
- Thurs 29 Dec 2022: The Aluminum Show
- Fri 30 Dec 2022: Sing-a-Long Sound of Music
- Tues 17 Jan 2023: Ali Hassan - Does This Taste Funny?
- Thurs 19 Jan 2023: Piaf! The Show
- Sun 22 Jan 2023: Hear! Here! Series w/ The Mark Lalama Trio featuring Daniel Romano
- Fri 27 Jan 2023: Ballet Edmonton
- Fri 27 Jan – Sat 28 Jan 2023: *Prophecy Fog* by Jani Lauzon
- Wed 1 Feb 2023: Freedom! The Spirit and Legacy of Black Music with Beau Dixon and special guests
- Thurs 2 Feb 2023: Classic Albums Live: Paul Simon - *Graceland*
- Wed 8 Feb 2023: Jann Arden
- Thurs 9 Feb 2023: The Original Wailers featuring Al Anderson
- Wed 15 Feb 2023: *Are we not drawn onward to new erA* by Ontroerend Goed
- Sat 18 Feb 2023: *Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed That Line to Freedom* w/ The Nathaniel Dett Chorale
- Mon 20 Feb 2023: *Tweet! Tweet!* by Femmes du Feu - FAMILY DAY
- Mon 20 Feb 2023: *Afrique en Cirque* by Cirque Kalabanté - FAMILY DAY
- Thurs 23 Feb 2023: The Dirty Dozen Brass Band + Nathan Williams and the Zydeco Cha Chas
- Wed 1 Mar 2023: DakhaBrakha
- Sun 5 Mar 2023: Elvira Kurt and the Girls Nite Out Sketch Comedy Troupe
- Thurs 9 Mar 2023: Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder
- Fri 10 Mar – Sat 11 Mar 2023: *No Woman's Land* by Jaber Dance Theatre
- Mon 13 Mar 2023: The Irish Rovers
- Sun 19 Mar 2023: *The Ugly Duckling* by Lightwire Theater
- Wed 29 Mar 2023: Bachman & Bachman
- Sun 2 Apr 2023: Hear! Here! Series w/ The Mark Lalama Trio featuring Sarah Slean
- Wed 5 Apr 2023: Big Wreck
- Thurs 6 Apr 2023: Classic Albums Live: The Beatles - *Let It Be*
- Wed 19 Apr 2023: Celebration of Nations Music Showcase featuring Twin Flames

- Thurs 20 Apr 2023: Kid Koala's *Satellite Turntable Orchestra*
- Fri 21 Apr 2023: Kid Koala's *Satellite Turntable Orchestra*
- Sat 22 Apr 2023: Kid Koala's *Satellite Turntable Orchestra*
- Tues 25 Apr 2023: The Just For Laughs Road Show
- Thurs 27 Apr 2023: Jesse Cook
- Fri 28 Apr 2023: Red Baraat
- Mon 1 May 2023: Choir! Choir! Choir!
- Wed 3 May 2023: Andy Shauf

## **2022 Takin' it to the Streets - Free Summer Concert Series**

St. Paul Street in front of the PAC, 5-7pm – FREE

- Sat 9 July: Jeremy Fisher + Brooks & Bowskill
- Sat 16 July: Big Smoke Brass Band presented in partnership with the TD Niagara Jazz Festival
- Sat 23 July: OKAN
- Sat 30 July: Shad / #EMANCIPATIONDAYSTC, presented in partnership with Matter of Black and Black Owned 905
- Sat 6 August: The Woodshed Orchestra
- Sat 13 August: The Slocan Ramblers
- Sat 20 August: Shawnee Kish
- Sat 27 August: New To You – Local Music Showcase

## **2022 Fresh Air Flicks**

Mann Raceway / PAC backyard at Dusk – FREE

- Sat 9 July: SPACE JAM (1996) + Hosted by Hub of the Hammer's THAT'S SO CINEMA, featuring 90s music, trivia and giveaways
- Sat 16 July: CHICAGO (2002)
- Sat 23 July: THE RED TURTLE (2016)
- Sat 30 July: SUMMER OF SOUL (2021)
- Sat 6 August: BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM (2002)
- Sat 13 August: O, BROTHER WHERE ART THOU? (2000)
- Sat 20 August: RUMBLE: THE INDIANS WHO ROCKED THE WORLD (2017)
- Sat 27 August: SOUL (2020)

## **2022 Celebration of Nations Marquee Concerts**

Full program to be announced 3 Aug 2022

- Fri 9 Sept 2022: First Ladies of Jazz – Tribute to Mildred Bailey, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald
- Sat 10 Sept 2022: Buffy Sainte-Marie

## **Special Program**

A special outdoor presentation by touring theatre company, Driftwood Theatre in the Mann Raceway (PAC backyard) – general admission, pay-what-you-can ticketing

- Sun 24 July 2022: Driftwood Theatre – The Bards Bus Tour: *King Henry Five* by William Shakespeare