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**Mesa Arts Center announces second half of 2018-19 season**

Tickets on sale now

**Jan. 10, 2019 (Mesa, AZ)** – Mesa Arts Center has announced performances and special events scheduled for the first half of 2019, including the mid-season line-up for the Performing Live series. Tickets are on sale now and at the Mesa Arts Center Box Office, at 480-644-6500, or online at [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com).

Special event highlights include **Albesila, by Architects of Air**, a ticketed, large-scale installation scheduled for Feb. 9-17 in Mesa's Pioneer Park; Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's spring opening reception, Feb. 8, 7 – 10 p.m., free, featuring the **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemporary Crafts exhibition**; continuation of the spark! After Dark series every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month through May, 8-11 p.m., now called **spark at dark**; installation of three second generation prototypes in downtown Mesa, as part of the **Mesa Prototyping Project**; and weekly free **Out to Lunch** concerts held at 12:30 p.m. each Thursday through March 14.

**spark! Mesa's Festival of Creativity**, regularly slated for mid-March, will take a hiatus in 2019, as Mesa Arts Center completes their strategic planning process and reassesses goals and strategies for future events.

Highlights for the second half of the Performing Live season include **A Bowie Celebration**, which features key alumni musicians from David Bowie's bands across the decades; a special Valentine's Day engagement with violinist **Joshua Bell**; Broadway hit **STOMP**; and **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, as they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> season. Concerts by **Steep Canyon Rangers**, **Gina Chavez**, **Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox** and more complete the line-up.

The full schedule, including the *National Geographic Live* speaker series which delivers stories of life-changing explorations from behind the camera, and the Classical Music Inside Out series curated by GRAMMY award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey, is listed below and available at [MesaArtsCenter.com](http://MesaArtsCenter.com).

**PERFORMING LIVE SCHEDULE, CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**

**Croce Plays Croce**

January 12, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$40

"Croce plays Croce," features a complete set of classics by his father Jim Croce, some of his

own tunes, and songs that influenced both him and his father. The show often includes such timeless songs as “Operator,” “You Don’t Mess Around with Jim,” “Workin’ At the Car Wash Blues,” “Rapid Roy (The Stock Car Boy),” “One Less Set of Footsteps,” “Lovers Cross,” and “Box #10,” to name a few.

**Marc-André Hamelin, Piano**

***Presented as part of the Classical Music Inside Out series***

January 17, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$38 - \$46

Pianist Marc-André Hamelin is known worldwide for his unrivaled blend of consummate musicianship and brilliant technique in the great works of the established repertoire, as well as for his intrepid exploration of the rarities of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries – in concert and on disc.

***National Geographic Live***

**Bertie Gregory: A Wild Life**

January 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$27 - \$41

Whether camping with wolves on Vancouver’s western beaches, pursuing peregrine falcons in London, or filming leopards in the streets of Mumbai, Bertie Gregory captures the essence of what it means to coexist peacefully—with respect and humor—alongside the magnificent creatures of the natural world.

**The Fab Four**

January 25, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$29.50 - \$59.50

The Fab Four is elevated far above every other Beatles Tribute due to their precise attention to detail. With uncanny, note-for-note live renditions of Beatles songs, The Fab Four will make you think you are watching the real thing. This incredible stage show includes three costume changes representing every era of the Beatles ever-changing career. Hear such classics as “Can’t Buy Me Love,” “Yesterday,” “A Day in The Life,” “Penny Lane,” “Here Comes the Sun,” and “Hey Jude.”

*Presented in partnership with Emporium Presents.*

**We Shall Overcome: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Featuring Damien Sneed**

January 25, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$41

Inspired by the words and action of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “We Shall Overcome” showcases repertoire from across the African American music traditions that electrified generations of civil rights activists and defenders with interwoven spoken word from Dr. King’s recorded speeches.

**Ben & Noel Haggard**

January 26, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$38

The incredibly musically talented family of the legendary Merle Haggard are carrying on that legacy as they hit the road! For fans of Merle Haggard, his youngest son Ben was lead guitarist for The Strangers. Currently, Ben tours with his older brother Noel Haggard continuing their father's legacy.

### **The Moth Mainstage**

February 1, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$33 - \$48

The Moth is dedicated to the art of storytelling. The Moth has presented more than 3,000 stories, told live and without notes, by people from all walks of life to standing room only crowds worldwide. Each Moth Mainstage features simple, old-fashioned storytelling by five wildly divergent raconteurs who develop shape for their stories with The Moth's directors.

### **Chris Botti**

February 2, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$45 - \$75

Chris Botti is the largest-selling American instrumental artist. He has four #1 jazz albums, as well as multiple Gold, Platinum and Grammy® Awards. Performing worldwide and selling more than four million albums, he has found a form of creative expression that begins in jazz and expands beyond the limits of any single genre.

### **Joan Osborne Sings the Songs of Bob Dylan**

February 5, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$35 - \$45

On Songs of Bob Dylan, Joan Osborne unleashes her sizable gifts as a vocalist and interpreter upon The Bard's celebrated canon. With performances honed by the time Osborne spent polishing them during "Joan Osborne Sings the Songs of Bob Dylan" which she performed at New York City's Café Carlyle in 2016 and 2017, the Grammy®-nominated, multi-platinum-selling singer and songwriter winds her supple, soulful voice around Dylan's poetic, evocative lyrics.

### **A Bowie Celebration:**

#### **The David Bowie Alumni Tour**

February 6, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$33 - \$68

Join key alumni musicians of David Bowie's bands from across the decades in A Bowie Celebration, featuring an unforgettable and critically acclaimed evening of Bowie songs with world-class vocalists and an ever-rotating mix of hits and deep cuts.

### **Kodo**

February 7, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$31 - \$51

Exploring the limitless possibilities of the traditional Japanese drum, the taiko, Kodo is forging

new directions for a vibrant living art-form. In Japanese, the word “Kodo” conveys two meanings: Firstly, “heartbeat,” the primal source of all rhythm. Secondly, read in a different way, the word can mean “children of the drum,” a reflection of Kodo’s desire to play the drums simply, with the heart of a child.

### **Jad Abumrad: The Miracle of Indoor Plumbing**

February 9, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$35

After 15 years of making *Radiolab* and, more recently, *More Perfect*, Jad Abumrad found himself standing on a street corner, staring down at a manhole cover and thinking: indoor plumbing! Of course! Join Jad as he deconstructs the process of finding and developing stories and creating new, original work. He’ll unearth the hidden ingredients key to the stories that inspire, change and connect us all.

### **Joshua Bell, Violin**

**with Sam Haywood, Piano**

February 14, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$30 - \$80

With a career spanning more than 30 years as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist and conductor, Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated violinists of his era. Bell has recorded more than 40 CDs garnering Grammy®, Mercury, Gramophone and Echo Klassik awards and is the recipient of the Avery Fisher Prize.

### ***National Geographic Live***

**Cristina Mittermeier: Standing at The Water’s Edge**

February 20, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$27 - \$41

Cristina is a Mexican-born marine biologist and photographer specializing in conservation issues surrounding the ocean and indigenous cultures. Her work centers on the delicate balance between human well-being and healthy ecosystems.

### **An Evening with Paula Poundstone**

February 15, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$35

Paula Poundstone is one of our country’s preeminent comedians. Also an author, lecturer, host and actress, Paula was the first woman to perform standup comedy at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner. She won an American Comedy Award for Best Female Standup comic and is recognized in innumerable lists noting influential standup comedians of our time.

### **U.S. Airforce Band of the Golden West**

**The Commanders Jazz Ensemble**

February 24, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | FREE

Carrying on the American tradition of the great traveling big bands, this energetic group of 20

highly trained professional airmen-musicians is the only active-duty Air Force band west of the Rockies. The Band of the Golden West is dedicated to using the power of music to inspire our Air Force members and the great nation we serve.

## **STOMP**

March 5 – 10, 2019, Times Vary

Ikeda Theater | \$26 - \$66

Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters and more fill the stage with energizing beats at STOMP, the inventive and invigorating stage show that's dance, music and theatrical performance blended together in one electrifying rhythm. "STOMP can't be beat! Infectious, Inventive Pulse-Pounding Entertainment! A Roaring Good Time!"-*San Francisco Chronicle*

*STOMP is generously sponsored by SRP.*

## **Steep Canyon Rangers**

March 13, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$38

The GRAMMY award-winning Steep Canyon Rangers have spent two decades bending and shaping the bluegrass aesthetic, wedding it to elements of pop, country, and folk rock to create something original. Their original music links them to the past while also bringing string-based music into contemporary relevance.

## **Break of Reality**

***Presented as part of the Classical Music Inside Out series***

March 14, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30

Formed in 2003, Break of Reality has gone on to reach millions of listeners via platforms like Spotify and Pandora Radio, and their rendition of the *Game of Thrones* theme has over 16 million views on YouTube. The band has released four full length albums and their music has been featured on a variety of radio, television and internet outlets, including NPR, PBS, Dateline NBC, Yahoo Music and *Huffington Post*.

## **Anne Lamott**

March 19, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$28 - \$50

Anne Lamott writes and speaks with self-effacing humor – she is laugh-out-loud funny. She writes about what most of us don't like to think about. In all her novels, she writes about loss; loss of loved ones and loss of personal control. She doesn't try to sugar-coat the sadness, frustration and disappointment, but tells her stories with honesty, compassion and a pureness of voice.

## ***National Geographic Live***

**Thomas Peschak: Wild Seas, Secret Shores**

March 20, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$27 - \$41

Photographer Thomas P. Peschak is trained as a marine biologist, specializing in the impacts of illegal fishing and kelp forest ecology. Thomas has written and photographed five books: *Currents of Contrast*, *Great White Shark*, *Wild Seas Secret Shores*, *Lost World*, and *Sharks and People*.

### **Magic Tree House**

#### **Showtime With Shakespeare**

March 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$20

Climb into a musical time machine with Jack and Annie, and travel back to Elizabethan England! The daring sibling duo learns to overcome stage fright to save the famed bard's show. Based on the book series by Mary Pope Osborne, the show helps audiences discover how history is shaped by those who learn to overcome their fears. Full of freestyle beats to move your feet, this tuneful tale is a hit with kids and grown-ups alike. Best for ages 5 and up.

### **Wordplay Café Story Slam**

March 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Nesbitt Elliott Playhouse Theater | \$15

The WordPlay Café open mic series culminates in an exciting stage show featuring storytellers, spoken word artists and musicians. Judged by professional storytellers and members of the audience, the Story Slam is a platform for celebrating one of humanity's oldest art forms, while also using competition to challenge storytellers to take new risks.

### **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**

March 29-30, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$41 - \$65

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a now-fabled performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African-American modern dancers, that performance changed forever the perception of American dance. The Ailey company has gone on to perform for an estimated 25 million people at theaters in 48 states and 71 countries on six continents – as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms.

### **Gina Chavez**

March 30, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30 - \$35

Gina Chavez is blending the sounds of the Americas with tension and grace. A multi-ethnic Latin pop songstress, Chavez is a nine-time Austin Music Award winner — including 2015 Musician of the Year and Album of the Year for her sophomore release, *Up.Rooted*. Chavez's passionate collection of bilingual songs take audiences on a journey through the Americas.

### **Zakir Hussain: Masters of Percussion**

April 6, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$35 - \$45

Zakir Hussain is today appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. A classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, his consistently brilliant and exciting performances have not only established him as a national treasure in his own country, India, but gained him worldwide fame. His playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity, founded in formidable knowledge and study.

**Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour  
Starring Cécile McLorin Salvant**

April 9, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$36 - \$46

Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour 2019 starring Cécile McLorin Salvant features Bria Skonberg (trumpet), Melissa Aldana (tenor sax), Yasushi Nakamura (bass), Christian Sands (piano) and Jamison Ross (drums/ percussion). Their live performance demonstrates Monterey's "traditional-untraditionalist" attitude, jazz-with-a-purpose exuberance, and joyful fun that continues to be the hallmark of the Festival to this day.

**Jason Vieaux, Guitar,  
and Yolanda Kondonassis, Harp**

***Presented as part of the Classical Music Inside Out series***

April 11, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$38 - \$46

Yolanda Kondonassis is celebrated as one of the world's premier solo harpists and is widely regarded as today's most recorded classical harpist. NPR describes Vieaux as, "perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation." His album, *Play*, won the 2015 Grammy® Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo and earned a place on NPR's "50 Favorite Songs of 2014 (So Far)" for Vieaux's recording of "Zapateado."

**Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox**

April 17, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$42.50 - \$108, VIP Packages Available

Postmodern Jukebox returns to Mesa Arts Center April 17! The multi-talented collective reimagines contemporary pop, rock, and R&B hits in the style of various yesteryears, from swing to doo-wop, ragtime to Motown, or, as Bradlee himself puts it, "pop music in a time machine."

**American Girl Live\*\***

April 16-20, 2019, Times Vary

Piper Theater | \$35 - \$55 VIP Packages Available

Experience American Girl in an all-new musical inspired by American Girl's iconic characters and their stories. Come along for a fun-filled adventure, where exciting tales of bravery and friendship come to life! Join your favorite American Girl characters, and some brand-new friends, as they follow their hearts and share their dreams, in a journey across time. **\*\*Tickets on sale May 18, 10 a.m.**

### **Christian McBride Big Band**

April 24, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$36 - \$46

The Christian McBride Big Band is a 17-piece, 21st century big band whose debut album, *The Good Feeling*, received the Grammy® Award for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album in 2012. Iconic bassist Christian McBride has been doing what the title of his upcoming big band album implied for years: *Bringin' It*. This highly anticipated release puts his status and skills as an all-around entertainer on full display.

### **International Jazz Day**

April 28, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

Alliance Pavilion | FREE

International Jazz Day AZ Foundation presents an outdoor extravaganza of Jazz featuring Nicholas Payton, Bernard Wright, NOLAZ Band, Nayo, Sandra Bassett, Jesse McGuire, Dowell Davis and many more.

### **Jake Shimabukuro**

May 2, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Ikeda Theater | \$39

Compared to the likes of Miles Davis and Jimi Hendrix, ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro is bringing his lightning-fast fingers and revolutionary playing techniques back to Mesa Arts Center for an enthralling evening of jazz, pop and funk. One of the world's most exciting and innovative ukulele players and composers, Jake redefines ukulele music--performing everything from traditional Hawaiian tunes to covers of popular hits like George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street, Mesa, AZ, 85201.

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### **About Mesa Arts Center**

The Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com).

**Editor's Note:** High res images available immediately upon request.