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Editor's Note: Images are [here](#).

Mesa Arts Center announces Performing Live season for 2021-2022

Tickets on sale now to Mesa Arts Center members; Tickets on sale to the public May 16 at noon



Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center is excited to announce the 2021-2022 Performing Live season. Season highlights include the **National Geographic Live** speaker series, the **Classical Music Inside Out** series curated by GRAMMY® award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey, **Kristin Chenoweth** in concert, **Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis**, **Black Violin's Impossible Tour**, the 'Cat Daddy' **Jackson Galaxy** and much more.

Tickets are on sale to Mesa Arts Center members now and go on sale to the public **Sunday, May 16 at noon**. Tickets will be available online at mesaartscenter.com or by phone (during box office business hours). Please note, there are no in-person box office ticket sales.

Over 30 performances and events are listed below in chronological order. Additional shows will be announced throughout the season. Mesa Arts Center Memberships start at \$60 and those who become members now will have an opportunity to purchase tickets to Performing Live events before they go on sale to the public.

Sponsors include Bill Passey & Maria Silva and the Gloria Miner Charitable Music Foundation who support *Classical Music Inside Out*. Sunland Home Care & Medical, OPUS, The Summit at Sunland Hills, Gateway Bank, Springs Realty, Alliance Bank, Sun American Mortgage, Hospice at Home Arizona, The Bradshaw Firm, Mesa Community College, GHT Services LLC, National Bank of Arizona and Dignity Health are supporting Mesa Arts Center Foundation's special fundraising event *An Enchanted Evening featuring Kristin Chenoweth*. Finally, ongoing support for Mesa Arts Center's programming is provided by The Boeing Company, Arizona Commission on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts.

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

Performing Live 2021-2022, in chronological order:

Pat Metheny: *Side-Eye*

With James Francies & Joe Dyson

Sun, Oct 3 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$40 - \$66

Pat Metheny's new project *Side-Eye* features up-and-coming jazz artists of today. Pat explains, "I wanted to create an ongoing setting to feature a rotating cast of new and upcoming musicians who have particularly caught my interest along the way." This performance will showcase the musical talents of keyboardist/pianist James Francies and drummer Joe Dyson.

National Geographic Live

Mark Synnott | Climber

Life on the Vertical

Wed, Oct 13 | 7:30PM | Ikeda Theater | \$31 - \$45

Mark Synnott is a man ever on the brink of new discovery. A big wall rock-climber of the highest order, he's made legendary first ascents of some of the world's tallest, most forbidding walls, from Baffin Island to Pakistan. Today, he uses his skills to break scientific ground, reaching incredibly inaccessible environments in search of rare species. It's all in the spirit of adventure and exploration to educate about these sites of strange, remote beauty.

In Conversation with the Sopranos

Sat, Oct 16 | 8:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$35 – \$75

This 90-minute show features cast members Steve Schirripa, Vincent Pastore, and Michael Imperioli. Hosted by comedian Joey Kola, see these iconic actors take the stage to share stories, memories, and slides from when THE SOPRANOS was in production. Fans in attendance will have a chance to ask the cast members anything during the Q&A portion of the show. All topics are on the table, even theories on the show's controversial series finale. Language may not be suitable for all ages.

Classical Music Inside Out

An Evening with Shelly Watson

Thu, Oct 21 | 7:30 PM | Piper Theater | \$30 - \$42

7:15 PM Pre-performance conversation with Zuill Bailey

Shelly has taken every artistic opportunity offered in New York City to become her own brand of entertainment excellence. As an opera singer, she's an award-winning B.M. and M.M. Juilliard graduate, a Metropolitan Opera outreach Artist and a world premiere music collaborator specializing in improvisation, Shelly delivers an impressive display of improvisational skills, patter and vocal virtuosity. Her amazing ability to enthrall an audience of 80 or 8,000 by creating moods and memories has made her a highly sought-after Femcee and event host.

The Fab Four

Sat, Oct 23 | 8:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$35 - \$65

The Fab Four is elevated far above every other Beatles Tribute due to their precise attention to detail. 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," "Here Comes the Sun," and "Hey Jude."

Presented in partnership with Emporium Presents

National Geographic Live

Brian Skerry | Underwater Photographer

Secrets of the Whales

Wed, Nov 3 | 7:30PM | Ikeda Theater | \$31 - \$45

Brian Skerry is a photojournalist specializing in marine wildlife and underwater environments. Since 1998, he has been a contributing photographer for National Geographic magazine, covering a wide range of subjects and stories. He was named a National Geographic Society Photography Fellow in 2014 and a National Geographic Society Storytelling Fellow in 2017. In 2017, he was also awarded the title of Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year.

Alton Brown LIVE: Beyond the Eats

Thu, Nov 11 | 7:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$43 - \$78

Television personality, author and Food Network star Alton Brown is hitting the road with a new culinary variety show. Audiences can expect more cooking, more comedy, more music and more potentially dangerous science stuff. Prepare for an evening unlike any other and if Brown calls for volunteers, think twice. Brown has a knack for mixing science, music and food into two hours of pure entertainment. "Plus, you'll see things I've never been allowed to do on TV."

Classical Music Inside Out

Attacca Quartet

Thu, Nov 18 | 7:30 PM | Piper Theater | \$30 - \$42

7:15 PM Pre-performance conversation with Zuill Bailey

Grammy® award-winning Attacca Quartet, as described by The Nation, "lives in the present aesthetically, without rejecting the virtues of the musical past." It is this dexterity to glide between the music of the 18th - 21st-century living composer's repertoire has placed them as one of the most versatile and outstanding ensembles of the moment – a quartet for modern times.

Cirque Musica Holiday Spectacular

Fri, Nov 19 | 8:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | | \$58.50 - \$88.50 | VIP Available

The Cirque Musica Holiday Spectacular brings the joy and excitement of the holiday season to Mesa Arts Center like never before. This all-new production features some of the greatest holiday songs of all time performed with the world-renowned cast of Cirque Musica. Experience the chills, thrills, and excitement of the best Cirque performers from around the world performing to holiday favorites. We can't wait to celebrate the holidays with you and your family!

Presented in partnership with Tobin Entertainment

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox

Return to the Twenties 2.0 Tour

Sat, Nov 20 | 8:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$35 - \$75 | VIP Available

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox (PMJ) has amassed over one billion YouTube views with 3.5 million subscribers and more than 1.7 million fans on Facebook. A vintage filter on today's hits performed by the most original cover band - Postmodern Jukebox. Experience the style and craftsmanship of another era.

Whose Live Anyway?

Sun, Nov 21 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$35 - \$55

Whose Live Anyway?, the critically-acclaimed improv comedy show, features Ryan Stiles along with fellow comics Greg Proops, Jeff Davis and Joel Murray. Together they perform many of the hilarious games made famous on their Emmy-nominated TV series, Whose Line Is It Anyway?, which aired on ABC from 1998 to 2004 and returned to the airwaves in 2013 on The CW, where it's currently about to enjoy its 8th season.

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas 2021 Tour

With Special Guests Jonathan Butler, Rick Braun, Richard Elliot and Rebecca Jade

Wed, Dec 15 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$61.50 - \$92.50 | VIP Available

Dave Koz & Friends continue their annual holiday tradition at Mesa Arts Center! With nine Grammy® nominations, nine No. 1 albums on Billboard's Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart, and a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, saxophonist Dave Koz has maintained a commitment to celebrating the magic of the holiday season like few other artists of his genre or generation.

An Intimate Evening with David Foster

Hitman Tour

Sun, Jan 16 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$36 - \$86

GRAMMY® Award-winning producer David Foster, one of the biggest musical forces of our time, is embarking on An Intimate Evening with David Foster: Hitman Tour. Foster performs songs he wrote or produced from his four decades of hits and includes stories about the songs, artists, and moments of his life. Delivered by powerhouse performers, the hits include Celine Dion's "Because You Loved Me," Whitney Houston's "The Bodyguard," Earth Wind and Fire's "After The Love Is Gone," Michael Bubl 's "Home," Natalie Cole's "Unforgettable," and many more.

National Geographic Live

Alicia Odewale | African Diaspora Archaeologist

Greenwood: A Century of Resilience

Wed, Jan 19 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$31 - \$45

An Assistant Professor at the University of Tulsa, Alicia Odewale specializes in African Diaspora archaeology in the Caribbean and Southeastern United States with a theoretical focus on community-centered, antiracist, and Black feminist archaeology. She is committed to decolonizing research agendas and encouraging more participation by Black and Indigenous scholars in the fields of archaeology and academia.

Jazz at Lincoln Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

Thu, Jan 20 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$40 - \$80

Under Music Director Wynton Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) performs a vast repertoire, from rare historic compositions to Jazz at Lincoln Center commissioned works, including compositions and arrangements by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, and many others.

The Life and Music of George Michael

Sun, Jan 23 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$38

The Life and Music of George Michael celebrates one of the world's most beloved artists. This show will get you on your feet dancing and singing along to the hits of Wham! and George's illustrious solo career with blockbuster hits like "Wake Me Up Before You Go Go," "Faith," "Careless Whisper," "Father Figure" and many more. The Life and Music of George Michael captures the performance and sound of one of the biggest international stars of our time.

Kristin Chenoweth In Concert: For the Girls

Sat, Jan 29 | 8:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$50 - \$95

Kristin Chenoweth's career spans film, television, voiceover and stage. In 1999, she won a Tony Award for "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" and she was nominated for her original role of Glinda the Good Witch in "Wicked" in 2004. Chenoweth has been nominated for two Emmy Awards and a People's Choice Award for her role on "Glee." Chenoweth also recently released her latest album, "For The Girls," debuting at #3 on the Current Pop Albums chart and #11 on the Billboard Top Albums chart. The album is a heartfelt tribute to the great female singers throughout history, particularly Kristin's heroes and friends. Guest artists on the album include Ariana Grande, Dolly Parton, Jennifer Hudson and Reba McEntire.

Mesa Arts Center Foundation Presents A Special Fundraising Event An Enchanted Evening Featuring Kristin Chenoweth

Sat, Jan 29 | 6:00 PM

Join us for An Enchanted Evening with Kristin Chenoweth. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Mesa Arts Center Foundation and Mesa Arts Center's Engagement Programs. Reserve tickets at MesaArtsCenter.com or call 480-644-6604.

\$200 - VIP Seating + Preshow Wine and Cheese Reception, including one drink in the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum.

\$300 - VIP Seating + Preshow Cocktail Reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres.

\$500 - Premium Seating + Preshow Cocktail Reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a post-show Champagne Dessert Reception and a post-show appearance by Kristin Chenoweth.

A Conversation with John Leguizamo

Thu, Feb 3 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$35 - \$75 | VIP Available

John Leguizamo first came to prominence in the lecture world around the nation's colleges and stages with his presentation, which traced his life from growing up in Queens, through his avant-garde theater origins in the 1980s, to his feature film career and beyond. Leguizamo is now bringing his story—the lessons he's learned, the characters he's encountered, and his passion for education and his struggles against racism and poverty—to Mesa.

Riverdance

25 Years of Riverdance

Feb 9 - 13 | Times Vary | Ikeda Theater | \$38 - \$78

For over 25 years, nothing has carried the energy, the sensuality and the spectacle of Riverdance. A powerful and stirring reinvention of this beloved favorite, celebrated the world over for its thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance. Immerse yourself in the extraordinary power and grace of its music and dance—beloved by fans of all ages.

Classical Music Inside Out

Xavier Foley, Double Bass/Composer

Thu, Feb 10 | 7:30 PM | Piper Theater | \$30 - \$42

7:15 PM Pre-performance conversation with Zuill Bailey

Double bassist Xavier Foley is a recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. He was recognized on New York WQXR's "19 for 19" Artists to Watch list and featured on PBS Thirteen's NYC-ARTs. As a concerto soloist, he has performed with orchestras, including the Atlanta Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Nashville Symphony. Mr. Foley has been co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall and the Sphinx Organization for a new work entitled "For Justice and Peace" for violin, bass, and string orchestra. The piece will be performed at Carnegie Hall this season as part of a program designed to promote social justice.

National Geographic Live

Rae Wynn-Grant | Carnivore Ecologist

The Secret Life of Bears

Wed, Feb 23 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$31 - \$45

Conservation ecologist Rae Wynn-Grant has dedicated her life to ecological research and conservation. She works in the expansive American Prairie Reserve to protect and restore iconic wildlife populations, including North American black and grizzly bears, in a region once known for its great number of wild animals. But when the wild lands of this habitat are crisscrossed by roads, fences, and ranches, how can bears and humans coexist peacefully?

Neil Sedaka

Wed, Mar 2 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$45 - \$85

Neil Sedaka is a singer, songwriter, composer, pianist and author. His impressive sixty-year career ranges from being one of the first teen pop sensations of the 50's, to remaining a constant force in writing and performing presently. This is all thanks to the countless songs he has written, performed, and produced that continue to inspire artists and audiences around the world.

The Princess Bride: An Inconceivable Evening with Cary Elwes

Sat, Mar 5 | 8:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$37.50 - \$152.50 | VIP Available

Fans of The Princess Bride will join the heroic Westley (actor Cary Elwes) in a behind-the-scenes look at life on and off the set of the classic film. After a screening of the iconic film, Elwes will engage in a moderated discussion on classic scenes, revealing never before shared secrets and tales of inconceivable antics!

Presented in partnership with Tobin Entertainment

Black Violin: Impossible Tour

Weds, Mar 16 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$40 - \$65

Black Violin is led by classically trained string players Wil B. (viola) and Kev Marcus (violin). Joining them onstage are DJ SPS and drummer Nat Stokes. The band uses their unique blend of classical and hip-hop, often described as "classical boom," music to overcome stereotypes while encouraging people of all ages, races, and economic backgrounds to join together to break down cultural barriers.

Classical Music Inside Out

Hanzhi Wang, Accordion

Thu, Mar 17 | 7:30 PM | Piper Theater | \$30 - \$42

7:15 PM Pre-performance conversation with Zuill Bailey

Hanzhi Wang is proving herself to be the perfect ambassador for her instrument. Other firsts include being named the Musical America "New Artist of the Month," an interview and performance on the 2,145th episode of New York WQXR's Young Artists Showcase as the first solo accordionist on the program, and the Naxos label's first-ever solo accordion CD, "On the Path to H.C. Andersen."

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández

Fri, Apr 1 | 8:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$30 - \$50

Amalia Hernández formed her own dance company in 1952, making presentations with choreographed work created by Amalia herself. Today they are one of Mexico's most important cultural assets. Ballet Folklórico de México will return to Mesa Arts Center, featuring renewed performances of the company's classic choreography.

Drum Tao 2022

Sat, Apr 2 | 8:00 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$19 - \$39

Modern, high-energy performances showcasing the ancient art of Japanese drumming have transfixed audiences worldwide. Combining highly physical, large-scale drumming with contemporary costumes, precise choreography, and innovative visuals, DRUM TAO 2022 is an unforgettable experience.

Classical Music Inside Out

Zuill Bailey, Cello | Chee-Yun Kim, Violin | Natasha Paremski, Piano

Wed, Apr 6 | 7:30 PM | Piper Theater | \$30 - \$42

7:15 PM Pre-performance conversation with Zuill Bailey

The all-star trio of Zuill Bailey, Chee-Yun Kim and Natasha Paremski join forces for a thrilling concert of music by Brahms, Franck, and Piazzolla. Chee-Yun's perfect technique, dazzling tone and compelling artistry have enraptured audiences on five continents. Natasha Paremski reveals astounding virtuosity, voracious interpretive abilities and powerful, flawless technique. Zuill Bailey is a Grammy® award-winning, internationally renowned soloist, recitalist, artistic director and teacher.

Jackson Galaxy

Sat, Apr 16 | 7:30 PM | Piper Theater | \$36 - \$56

Popularly known as "The Cat Daddy," Jackson Galaxy is the host and executive producer of Animal Planet's long-running hit show My Cat From Hell. Jackson's latest book, Total Cat Mojo, is a comprehensive guide to total cat wellness by eliminating behavioral problems through understanding cats and their instinctive behavior. Jackson's mission is to educate people about cats and deepen the human and cat bond while reducing the number of animals that end up in shelters.

National Geographic Live

Beth Shapiro | Evolutionary Biologist

How to Clone a Mammoth

Wed, Apr 13 | 7:30PM | Ikeda Theater | \$31 - \$45

Could extinct species, like mammoths and passenger pigeons, be brought back to life? National Geographic Emerging Explorer Beth Shapiro is one of the scientists investigating this intriguing possibility. From deciding which species should be restored to anticipating how revived populations might be overseen in the wild, the technical challenges and ethical considerations of de-extinction are substantial.

An Evening with Neil Gaiman

Fri, May 6 | 7:30 PM | Ikeda Theater | \$45 - \$75 | VIP Available

Neil Gaiman is one of the most celebrated writers of our time. His popular and critically acclaimed works bend genres while reaching audiences of all ages. Neil Gaiman will tell stories and read stories, answer questions, and in his own words, "amaze, befuddle and generally delight."

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About Mesa Arts Center

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. Mesa Arts Center's mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](https://www.mesaartscenter.com).