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Mesa Arts Center Unveils 20th Anniversary Performing Live Season

Tickets on sale **now** to Mesa Arts Center members
Tickets go on sale to the public on May 10 at noon



Image credits (left to right): Samara Joy, photo by Meredith Traux; Nat Geo Live: From Summit to Sea, photo by Andy Mann; Lila Downs, photo by Chino Lemus; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Samantha Figgins, photo by Dario Calmese.

Additional high-res images [here](#).

Mesa, AZ (April 29, 2024) – Mesa Arts Center is excited to announce the 20th Anniversary Performing Live season. Highlights include **Idina Menzel, Samara Joy, Kodo, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and more.

“From innovative modern music to cutting-edge American jazz, from Broadway blockbusters to side-splitting comedy, from gospel to bluegrass, the range of stories told through creative endeavors is astonishing,” said Richard M. Parison, Jr., Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Mesa. “Join us as we celebrate two decades of artistic excellence and embark on a season filled with unforgettable performances that inspire, entertain and uplift.”

“This season represents 20 years of relationship-building with our community,” said Randall Vogel, Deputy Director of Theaters. “We have the opportunity to celebrate some of the greatest artists that we’ve hosted over the past 20 years — Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández, Lila Downs, Dave Koz, Itzhak Perlman and more, and we’re thrilled to announce the return of our Broadway series.”

Mesa Arts Center is thrilled to offer a **Broadway Subscription Series**, a stellar lineup of Broadway productions, featuring **Come from Away**, **Dear Evan Hansen** and **The Cher Show**. The subscription series is on sale now at mesaartscenter.com/broadway.

National Geographic Live Speaker Series returns this season to take on an enriching journey through the wonders of our planet, including **From Summit to Sea** with Andy Mann, **From Roots to Canopy** with Nalini Nadkarni, **Earth After Dark** with Babak Tafreshi, **Penguins of Antarctica** with Heather Joan Lynch and **Cosmic Adventures** with Tracy Drain. From the depths of our oceans to the penguins of Antarctica and a cosmic trip through space, each show promises awe-inspiring visuals, compelling first-person stories and groundbreaking insights. The subscription series is on sale now at mesaartscenter.com/natgeolive.

Classical Music Inside Out returns for its 12th year under the artistic direction of GRAMMY® Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey. This season brings extraordinary worldwide talent to the stage, featuring **Roomful of Teeth**, **Njioma Grevious**, **Galvin Cello Quartet**, **Imani Winds** and **Mike Block Trio**. The subscription series is on sale now at mesaartscenter.com/cmio.

Mesa Arts Center is delighted to bring back the **Mirage Summer Music Series** featuring a collection of national, international and local musicians from July 20–Aug. 24. Tickets are \$12 per show or \$60 for a subscription to the six-show series.

Performing Live events are listed below in chronological order. Additional shows will be announced throughout the season. **Tickets are on sale to Mesa Arts Center Premier Circle members now and go on sale to the public on Friday, May 10, at noon.** Mesa Arts Center memberships start at \$60. [Become a member today](#) and purchase tickets before they go on sale to the public.

To purchase tickets, please visit mesaartscenter.com or call the box office during business hours at 480-644-6500. Purchasing tickets through Mesa Arts Center is the best and most reliable way to secure your spot for an unforgettable live performance. Ticket buyers receive the latest information on show schedules, seating options and all performance updates or changes while enjoying a seamless experience.

Performing Live 2024–2025:

The Circus Farm

July 14, 21 and 28 | 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. | Nesbitt-Elliott Playhouse

Escape the summer heat and join us for a family-friendly Mesa Arts Center experience. The day features a 60-minute air-conditioned family circus, with games, balloons, juggling, unicycle stunts, a hula hoop, LED lighted props, a giant robot and Aerial

Lollipop. Enjoy hands-on arts activities from Mesa Arts Center's engagement programs, and as an added experience, you may use your ticket for \$2.00 off admission to either Arizona Museum of Natural History or i.d.e.a. Museum for up to fourteen days after the performance date.

*\$2 off tickets for groups of four or more.

Il Divo | XX: 20th Anniversary Tour

July 16 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Twenty years of life, music and brotherhood have only enlivened, enhanced and enriched Il Divo. Like a fine wine bettered by time, the group's individual notes, accents and signatures have fully bloomed over the course of a storied career. Now, the iconic quartet — Urs Bühler (tenor), Sébastien Izambard (tenor), David Miller (tenor) and Steven LaBrie (baritone) — uphold the spirit of their signature sound, while expanding its scope on their tenth full-length offering and very first independent album, "XX: 20th Anniversary Album."

Presented in partnership with Live Nation.

Mirage Summer Music Series: Giovanni Kiyingi

July 20 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Giovanni Kiyingi is a talented Ugandan folk singer-songwriter and world music artist who captivates audiences worldwide with his extraordinary skills as a multi-instrumentalist. His mastery of diverse instruments such as the local Ugandan Endingidi, Akogo, Adungu, Endere, Djembe, Embuutu, Calabash, Congas and more, sets him apart in the music industry.

Idina Menzel

July 25 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Idina Menzel is a powerhouse multi-hyphenate: a singer, an actress in film and TV, a songwriter, a Broadway star and a philanthropist. She rose to fame for her role as Maureen in the popular Broadway musical Rent, and her career took off when she won a Tony Award for her role as Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, in the smash musical "Wicked." Her voice can be heard as Elsa in Disney's Oscar®-winning "Frozen." The New York Times praised Menzel as "an entertainer with a phenomenal voice ... Diana Ross with ten times the stamina and lung power."

Mirage Summer Music Series: Inkblot

July 27 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Inkblot is an original, instrumental, genre-bending quartet from Phoenix, Arizona. Melding ambient soundscapes, advanced rhythmic concepts and influences from across the board, this group seeks to find a modern sound while honoring the jazz tradition by using their compositions as a platform for improvisation.

Late Nite Catechism

Aug. 2–Sept. 1 | Times vary | Farnsworth Studio

Call it Loretta Young meets Carol Burnett, this interactive show is part catechism class and part stand up routine. You, the audience members, are part of this sister's class. She'll take you back to the days of Latin Mass, meatless Fridays and remind you about that good old ruler across the knuckles.

Group sales are available.

Mirage Summer Music Series: Dirt Rhodes

Aug. 3 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Dirt Rhodes is a Diné musician from Fort Defiance, Arizona, located on the Navajo Nation. His first release "Navajo Country Music" was released in September of 2020. Since, he's graced stages of the southwest with Rez Country sounds. With influences from Texas, Nashville and The Navajo Nation, Dirt Rhodes aims to highlight Indigenous peoples' long history with Country and Western music.

Mac McAnally

Aug. 7 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Ten time CMA Musician of the Year, Mac McAnally is a Nashville Songwriters HoF, Mississippi Musicians HoF and Alabama Music HoF inductee. The songwriter, singer and instrumentalist has written dozens of hit records for other artists, several of which peaked at number one. His own recording career began with the debut hit single "It's A Crazy World" and has grown to 14 album releases. He has written hits for Alabama, Jimmy Buffett, Kenny Chesney and Sawyer Brown, and has studio credits that include albums by Toby Keith, Linda Ronstadt, George Strait and Dolly Parton among many others.

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox the "10" Tour

Aug. 8 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Famed "Pop music in a Time Machine" concert act Postmodern Jukebox has announced a new World Tour to celebrate the dual milestone of their 10th anniversary of touring and their 1,000th show in 2024. Dubbed The '10' Tour, concertgoers can expect a dazzling, inspiring trip through the PMJ Universe — where modern-day earworms and iconic pop hits alike are reimaged in classic genres like 1920s jazz, Swing, Doo-wop and Motown, and brought to life by a cast of some of the world's best singers, dancers and instrumentalists.

Mirage Summer Music Series: Las Calakas

Aug. 10 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Las Calakas are a six piece Cumbia Fusion band based in Phoenix, Arizona. Las Calakas have released two albums to date with a third one set to be released in late 2024. Since their debut, Las Calakas have gained the quite the following around Phoenix with a very wide fan base. Las Calakas also created their own event which they host and headlining once a year titled "Cumbia Till You Drop" which is usually held at the Crescent Ballroom.

Mirage Summer Music Series: Morphia Slow and Robin Vining

Aug. 17 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Morphia Slow is a four piece project fronted by Allene Dugan, a lyricist and visual artist living in Phoenix, Arizona. Her songs conflate unrequited love with sadomasochism, find identity in the crevices of mountains and reveal the tender capabilities of an unreliable narrator. She refers to her genre as Folk-Murder-Pop, pulling inspiration from traditional folk songs with the added hyper awareness and angst of a new generation.

Mirage Summer Music Series: Driftwood Quintet

Aug. 24 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Based in Phoenix, Arizona, the Driftwood Quintet is a chamber group dedicated to crossing genres and bending boundaries in classical music. Through the work of Driftwood's arrangers, a performance can feature anything from orchestral masterworks or piano works to the imaginative soundtracks from the greatest video games and films. Driftwood exemplifies its dedication to chamber music through educational outreach, engaging youth through interactive performances that integrate music with a variety of disciplines such as language arts, science and history.

Ana Barbara | La Reina Grupera Tour**Sept. 7 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater**

Ana presentará en el escenario sus 30 años de carrera los cuales la llevaron a estar entre las artistas más destacadas del Regional Mexicano como compositora y cantante. Ha destacado siempre por su poderosa voz logrando grabar más de 15 álbumes de estudio a lo largo de su carrera, muchos de los cuales han obtenido certificaciones de oro y platino. Ha ganado varios premios y reconocimientos por su música, incluyendo un Latin Grammy, Premios Billboard de la Música Latina, Premios Lo Nuestro y Premios Juventud. Es considerada una de las artistas más influyentes y representativas de la música regional mexicana por sus decenas de éxitos en los charts de popularidad de México y Latinoamérica y ha sido una importante embajadora de la cultura mexicana en todo el mundo. COMEDIA EN ESPAÑOL.

Ana's concert will present music of her 30-year career which led her to be one of the biggest singers and composers of Mexican Regional music. She has always stood out for her powerful voice, recording more than 15 studio albums throughout her career, many of which have earned gold and platinum certifications. She has won many awards and recognitions for her music, including a Latin Grammy, Billboard Latin Music Awards, Premios Lo Nuestro and Premios Juventud. She is considered one of the most influential artists of regional Mexican music for her dozens of hits on the popularity charts in Mexico and Latin America and has been an important ambassador of Mexican culture around the world. PERFORMED IN SPANISH.

I Could Be Wrong, I Could Be Right: An Intimate Evening With John Lydon (aka Johnny Rotten)**Sept. 7 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater**

Lydon will reflect on the Sex Pistols, Public Image Limited (PiL), his art and his life's story during an informal evening of conversation and audience questions. An icon, a revolutionary and an immortal, as the frontman and lyricist of the Sex Pistols, Johnny Rotten changed the face of music and sparked a cultural revolution. He caused an earthquake which transformed music for good.

Presented in partnership with Patchwork Presents.

Samara Joy**Sept. 19 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater**

With her upcoming Verve Records debut, "Linger Awhile," Samara makes her case to join the likes of Sarah, Ella and Billie as the next mononymous jazz singer. She won GRAMMYs® for Best New Artist and Jazz Vocal Album of the year in 2023 and Improvised Jazz Solo in 2024. On "Linger Awhile," Samara will introduce a new

generation to a slew of classic standards several times older than she is through her timeless, irresistible sound.

Lila Downs

Sept. 22 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Winner of six Latin GRAMMYs® and one GRAMMY®, celebrated singer Lila Downs is one of the most powerful and unique voices that exist today. With a symbolic stage presence and emotional storytelling through song, her singing transcends all language barriers. Lila Downs's music embraces influences from the folkloric and ranchera music of Mexico to the music of the southern United States, crossing barriers and generating sounds that go from Folk, Jazz, Folkloric Blues, Indigena and ranchera to Hip Hop.

Ganadora del GRAMMY® y de seis Latin GRAMMY®, la cantante Lila Downs es una de las voces más poderosas y singulares que existen hoy en día. Su simbólica presencia en un escenario contando conmovedoras historias, ha trascendido todas las barreras del lenguaje. Con influencias que van desde la música folklórica y ranchera de México hasta la música del sur de estados unidos cruzando barreras y generando sonidos que van desde el Folk, Jazz, Blues Folklórica, Indigena, y ranchera hasta el Hip Hop. Las letras de Lila Downs a menudo marcan relatos enfocados desde la injusticia social, hasta las historias suprimidas de Latinoamérica de mujeres de orígenes indígenas y trabajadoras.

Kansas | Another Fork in the Road 50th Anniversary Tour

Sept. 27 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

With a legendary career spanning five decades, KANSAS has firmly established itself as one of America's iconic classic rock bands. This "garage band" from Topeka released their debut album in 1974 and have gone on to sell more than 30 million albums worldwide. Fans will hear songs spanning 50 years of KANSAS music including hits such as "Carry On Wayward Son," "Dust in the Wind" and "Fight Fire with Fire" and deep cuts that have rarely been played live.

Ninja Kidz Live | Infinite Possibilities

Sept. 29 | 4 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

It's time to enter the multi-verse. The Ninja Kidz are leaping out of your screens and into your city with Ninja Kidz Live: Infinite Possibilities. The fate of the universe hangs in balance as imposters threaten to infiltrate a stage near you. Join us for the first ever Ninja Kidz live action adventure filled with audience participation, physical challenges, games and epic battles. What happens when two worlds collide? The audience holds the key to shape how each adventure unfolds with an infinite number of possible outcomes. Get ready to laugh, cheer and determine destiny, one choice at a time. Presented in partnership with MagicSpace Entertainment.

Experience Hendrix

Oct. 4 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

The Experience Hendrix Tour features Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, Zakk Wylde, Eric Johnson, Taj Mahal, Noah Hunt, Chuck Campbell & Calvin Cooke of the Slide Brother, Mato Nanji, Dylan Triplett & Hendri Bronw. Experience Hendrix evokes the era when artists treated each performance as a unique interaction with their audience. Jimi Hendrix called this his "Electric Church." The Experience

Hendrix Tour fully embraces this approach, presenting multiple opportunities for performers and audiences to witness unique collaborations among the participating artists and will highlight these artists performing their favorite Hendrix signature songs including “Little Wing,” “Fire,” “Purple Haze” and “Voodoo Child.”

National Geographic Live: From Summit to Sea

Andy Mann | Filmmaker and Photographer

Oct. 9 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

National Geographic Explorer, filmmaker and photographer Andy Mann combines his passions with purpose as a voice for the world’s ocean, following scientists to some of the most extreme locations to make imagery that can inspire change. He has dived alongside crocodiles, sperm whales and sharks and survived near misses with icebergs — all in pursuit of his goal: to reveal Earth’s incredible ocean environments and advocate for their protection.

Carlos Ballarta | Tlatoani

Oct. 12 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Conoce a este comediante de stand up mexicano: Carlos Ballarta. Es hilarante. Es sarcástico. Y roquea un gran par de lentes como nadie más. A la edad de 33 años, ya tiene 3 especiales completos en netflix y uno en YouTube, “Rebelde Comodino.” En 2023, Carlos fue el primer hedliner de habla hispana en participar en el famoso festival Just For Laughs en Montreal. Te reirás toda la noche con sus críticos comentarios sobre cultura, religión, política, paternidad y la rareza de la vida cotidiana.

CONTIENE CONTENIDO Y LENGUAJE PARA ADULTOS. COMEDIA EN ESPAÑOL.

Meet the hot new stand-up comic out of Mexico: Carlos Ballarta. He’s hilarious. He’s edgy. And he rocks a pair of giant sunglasses like nobody else. At the age of 32, he already has three full-length Netflix specials and a new YouTube special, “Rebelde Comodino.” In 2023, Carlos became the first headliner to perform in Spanish in the 41-year history of the famous Just For Laughs comedy festival. You’ll laugh all night with his sharp takes on culture, religion, politics, family and the weirdness of everyday life.

CONTAINS ADULT CONTENT AND LANGUAGE. PERFORMED IN SPANISH.

Presented in partnership with Patchwork Presents.

Classical Music Inside Out: Roomful of Teeth

Oct. 16 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Roomful of Teeth is a two-time GRAMMY®-winning vocal band dedicated to reimagining the expressive potential of the human voice. By engaging collaboratively with artists, thinkers and community leaders from around the world, the group seeks to uplift and amplify voices old and new while creating and performing meaningful and adventurous music. As the world rapidly changes, Roomful of Teeth is cultivating deeper relationships with technology, continuing to expand the capabilities of the human voice, aiming to be unburdened by physical limitations.

The Black Jacket Symphony Presents Elton John’s “Madman Across the Water”

Oct. 23 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Remember putting on an album and listening from start to finish? Relive that moment with a live concert experience unlike any other as The Black Jacket Symphony recreates Elton John’s iconic album “Madman Across the Water” live in its entirety —

plus a full set of Elton John's greatest hits. It's a full night of rock and roll magic — plus a visual experience unlike any other.

Presented in partnership with Emporium Presents.

Croce Plays Croce | 50th Anniversary Tour

Nov. 1 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

With more than 50 million records sold, Jim Croce's legacy as an iconic singer/songwriter is firmly cemented. A.J. Croce, a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and performer, returns this fall, bringing Jim's classic songs to the stage with his "Croce Plays Croce 50th Anniversary Tour."

Presented in partnership with Patchwork Presents.

National Geographic Live: From Roots to Canopy

Nalini Nadkarni | Tree Canopy Ecologist

Nov. 6 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Throughout human history, trees have provided our most important sources of sustenance, protection and wonder. National Geographic Explorer Nalini Nadkarni, a tree canopy ecologist, has spent four decades dangling among the branches to study the ways that forests inform our daily lives. Discover a whole new world in this awe-inspiring program. Nadkarni will reveal the magnificent wildlife and incredible science happening in the vast, hidden worlds suspended above our heads.

Robert Glasper

Nov. 9 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Robert Glasper is the leader of a new sonic paradigm with a career that bridges musical and artistic genres. To date, he boasts five GRAMMY® wins and 11 nominations across 11 categories. His work and accolades bridge all aspects of the music business, from live touring to film scoring, composing and producing. Glasper is an artist at the heart of a moment — and a movement — to champion Black music, Black people and the possibility of a better future.

Classical Music Inside Out: Njioma Grevious

Nov. 13 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Described as "superb" by the Chicago Classical Review, violinist Njioma Chinyere Grevious is a passionate and versatile solo, chamber and orchestral musician and performer. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and a winner of its John Erskine Prize for scholastic and artistic achievement. At Juilliard, she studied under the tutelage of the Juilliard String Quartet and has also been coached by members of the Alban Berg, Ebène, Takács, Artemis, Brentano, Miró and Emerson Quartet.

Vitamin String Quartet

Nov. 14 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Experience fresh, classical-inspired takes on your favorite hits—plus selections from the Quartet's latest album, "VSQ Performs Taylor Swift." The ensemble's atmospheric arrangements have earned more than 1.5 billion streams and have been featured on Netflix's *Bridgerton* and HBO's *The King of Staten Island*.

Come From Away

Nov. 15–17 | Times vary | Ikeda Theater

On 9/11, the world stopped. On 9/12, their stories moved us all. This stirring and inspiring musical takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of the small town in Newfoundland that opened their homes to 7,000 stranded travelers on 9/11. During that fateful week, cultures clashed and nerves ran high — but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night and gratitude grew into enduring friendships. Celebrate the best of humankind and the best in all of us at COME FROM AWAY.

Encanto: The Sing-Along Film Concert

Nov. 19 | 7 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

AMP and Disney Concerts presents “ENCANTO: THE SING-ALONG FILM CONCERT” National Tour! Experience the film ENCANTO while singing along with its chart-topping hits, performed by a live band. Produced by AMP Worldwide, “Encanto: The Sing- Along Film Concert” will include all the music of the Academy Award®-winning film performed live. Fans are encouraged to dress up as Mirabel, Luisa, Isabela or any of their favorite characters from the film and to use their voices to transform each venue into one big celebration of the Madrigal family.

The Guess Who

Nov. 22 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

The Guess Who is a legendary Canadian band who enjoyed chart topping hits in the late 60’s and early 70’s with an impressive catalogue of songs including “American Woman,” “These Eyes” and “No Time.” The Guess Who is best known internationally for its 1970 album, “American Woman,” which hit number one in Canada and number nine in the United States, with five other albums also hitting the top ten in Canada.

Presented in partnership with Emporium Presents.

The Man Who Killed Santa Claus

Nov. 29 | 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Join Mesa Mayor John Giles for an original holiday event featuring “The Man Who Killed Santa Claus,” a true story of triumph over failure set in Downtown Mesa dating back to 1932. Held immediately before and after the lighting of the Merry Main Street Christmas tree in Downtown Mesa, the event includes original live music and will be recorded for a future episode of the “It’s Always Cool in Mesa” podcast, also hosted by Mayor Giles. Presented by It’s Always Cool in Mesa, the podcast.

The Fab Four | USA Meets the Beatles!

Nov. 29 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

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.

Big Band Holidays Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

Featuring Ekep Nkwelle and Robbie Lee

Dec. 8 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) spreads holiday cheer on its annual Big Band Holidays tour. Jazz at Lincoln Center rising star vocalists Ekep Nkwelle and

Robbie Lee join the JLCO to bring Yuletide greetings. Under the music direction of JLCO trombonist, Chris Crenshaw, the evening will feature soulful renditions of holiday classics, playful improvisation and entertaining storytelling. Enjoyed by audiences of all ages, these uplifting performances create lasting memories that will keep you returning to Big Band Holidays for years to come.

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis

Dec. 10 and 11 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS by Chip Davis has been America's favorite holiday tradition for more than 35 years! GRAMMY® Award winner Chip Davis has created a show that features Mannheim Steamroller Christmas classics in the distinctive Mannheim sound. The program includes 15 musicians playing more than 20 instruments against a backdrop of dazzling multimedia effects — capturing the spirit of the season in an immersive yet intimate setting.

The Illusionists | Magic of the Holidays

Dec. 12 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Celebrate the holidays with the entire family at “The Illusionists — Magic of the Holidays,” a mind-blowing showcase featuring jaw-dropping talents of the most incredible illusionists on earth. The Illusionists has shattered box office records across the globe and dazzles audiences of all ages with a powerful mix of the most outrageous and astonishing acts ever seen on stage. This non-stop show is packed with thrilling and sophisticated magic of unprecedented proportions. Presented in partnership with Patchwork Presents.

Dave Koz & Friends | Christmas 2024 Tour

Dec. 18 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

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.

Gentri Christmas

Dec. 19 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Experience the transformative power of GENTRI Christmas. Be moved by their heartfelt performances of beloved classics like “Oh Holy Night,” “Little Drummer Boy” and “Silent Night.” Prepare to be swept away as GENTRI weaves their musical mastery, powerful harmonies and heartfelt storytelling into a tapestry of pure Christmas wonder. Join us for an unforgettable night of music, laughter and pure Christmas joy with GENTRI. Presented in partnership with MagicSpace Entertainment.

National Geographic Live: Earth After Dark

Babak Tafreshi | Photojournalist and Cinematographer

Jan. 22 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Do you love the nightlife? Don't miss this fun National Geographic Live program exploring what happens after dark. Science photojournalist and National Geographic Explorer Babak Tafreshi has spent his career documenting the unbelievable beauty of the night sky and working to connect cultures through the common interest of looking

up. Tafreshi will offer an illuminating look at what happens when night falls here on Earth, as he shares visual stories of wildlife, humanity and the cosmos.

Itzhak Perlman | In the Fiddler's House

Jan. 23 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Itzhak Perlman, reigning virtuoso of the violin, presents his collection of traditional klezmer music, *In the Fiddler's House*. Released more than 25 years ago, the album became a PBS special that earned Perlman his third Emmy Award. Perlman returns to this project, offering the opportunity to witness not only his masterful technique and remarkable artistry, but also “to see and hear a gifted musician experiencing the pleasure of getting in contact with his roots” (Los Angeles Times).

An Intimate Evening with David Foster and Katharine McPhee

Jan. 26 | 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Sixteen-time GRAMMY® award-winning musician, songwriter, and producer David Foster and acclaimed singer, television and Broadway star Katharine McPhee are bringing their LIVE show on the road. This intimate show, with the powerhouse duo, will be packed with David's Hits from Chicago, Whitney Houston, Celine Dion, Josh Groban, Michael Buble, etc. and Katharine's biggest songs from “American Idol,” “Smash” and “Waitress.” Plus some of their favorites that they just love.

Classical Music Inside Out: Galvin Cello Quartet

Jan. 29 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

The Galvin Cello Quartet embodies virtuosity, with each member bringing their own artistic nuance and acclaimed background to the ensemble. With their untamable desire to create change, and ultimately bring joy through music, the Galvin Cello Quartet is more excited than ever to explore and expand the possibilities of the cello quartet. The group's mission is to bring together new works from diverse cultural backgrounds while seeking to establish the cello quartet as a core part of the classical music world.

Kodo

Feb. 8 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

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.

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández

Feb. 15 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Amalia Hernández was a dancer and choreographer, founder of the Ballet Folklórico de México in 1952. Hernández began a long journey through Mexican culture that would lead her to rescue the traditional dances around Mexico. She managed to project to the world the beauty of our country through movement, from pre-Columbian cultures and Spanish influences to the revolutionary times. With her first performances in 1952, she obtained public recognition as a cultural representative of Mexico. Her great success established the Ballet in the Palace of Fine Arts as its permanent venue.

Amalia Hernández fue una bailarina y coreógrafa, fundadora en 1952 del Ballet Folklórico de México. Hernández inició un largo trayecto por la cultura mexicana que la llevaría a rescatar las danzas tradicionales de los diversos rincones de México. Ella logró proyectar ante el mundo la belleza de las diferentes regiones de nuestro país a través del movimiento, desde las culturas precolombinas, las influencias españolas en la época del virreinato hasta la fuerza popular de los tiempos revolucionarios. Con sus primeras presentaciones en 1952 obtuvo el reconocimiento del público como representante cultural de México. Su gran éxito logró establecer al Ballet en el Palacio de Bellas Artes como su sede permanente.

National Geographic Live: Penguins of Antarctica
Heather Joan Lynch | Ecologist and Conservation Biologist
Feb. 19 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Antarctica's name alone conjures imagery of the harshest environment on the planet, but it is more than its monochromatic color scheme of snow and ice. Despite being the world's driest, windiest and coldest continent, Antarctica still sustains life. Join National Geographic Explorer and quantitative ecologist Heather Lynch on an adventure to the South Pole to see how life, from penguins to whales, not only survives but also thrives at the end of the earth.

Dear Evan Hansen
Feb. 28–March 2 | Times vary | Ikeda Theater

DEAR EVAN HANSEN is the first contemporary musical about connection in the digital age. Meet Evan Hansen, a high school student who always feels like he's on the outside looking in. After writing a letter to himself that was never meant to be seen, Evan becomes entangled in a lie that was never meant to be told and a life he never dreamt could be his. As a result, Evan finally gets what so many of us are searching for — the chance to finally fit in. Packed with some of the most popular musical theatre songs from the last decade including "You Will Be Found," "Waving Through A Window" and "For Forever," DEAR EVAN HANSEN features an uplifting score by the Tony®, GRAMMY® and Oscar®-winning team behind "The Greatest Showman," Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, and a book by Tony® Award winner Steven Levenson.

Classical Music Inside Out: Imani Winds
March 5 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Celebrating over a quarter century of music making, the twice GRAMMY®-nominated Imani Winds has led both a revolution and evolution of the wind quintet through their dynamic playing, adventurous programming, imaginative collaborations and outreach endeavors that have inspired audiences of all ages and backgrounds. The ensemble's playlist embraces traditional chamber music repertoire, and newly commissioned works from voices that reflect historical events and the times in which we currently live.

National Geographic Live: Cosmic Adventures
Tracy Drain | Flight Systems Engineer
March 26 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Discover the marvels of our cosmic backyard through the eyes of the robotic spacecraft sent out to explore it. National Geographic Explorer and aerospace engineer Tracy Drain works at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to develop, test and operate the complex machines that uncover some of the countless mysteries within and beyond our

solar system. See out-of-this-world sights captured by robotic spacecraft on missions to answer some of the most intriguing questions about our universe

The Cher Show

March 28–30 | Times vary | Ikeda Theater

Superstars come and go. Cher is forever. For six straight decades, only one unstoppable force has flat-out dominated popular culture — breaking down barriers, pushing boundaries and letting nothing and no one stand in her way. THE CHER SHOW is the Tony Award®-winning musical of her story, and it's packed with so much Cher that it takes three women to play her: the kid starting out, the glam pop star and the icon. THE CHER SHOW is 35 smash hits, six decades of stardom, two rock-star husbands, a GRAMMY®, an Oscar®, an Emmy®, and enough Tony® Award-winning Bob Mackie gowns to cause a sequin shortage in New York City, all in one unabashedly fabulous new musical that will have audiences dancing in the aisles!

Alton Brown | Last Bite – The Farewell Tour

April 6 | 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Alton Brown was directing TV commercials when he got the crazy idea to go to culinary school and reinvent the cooking show. The result was “Good Eats,” an irreverent, science-forward program that kept Brown gainfully employed for over twenty years. In Alton Brown Live: Last Bite, the famed foodist reflects on his decades in food media, presents several of his favorite culinary mega-hacks, sings some of his funny food songs, and in general offers a culinary variety show the likes of which human eyes have never seen

Classical Music Inside Out: Mike Block Trio

April 9 | 7:30 p.m. | Piper Theater

Mike Block Trio, featuring Joe K. Walsh (mandolin/vocals) and Zachariah Hickman (bass/vocals), is led by cello player, singer and composer, Mike Block, who has been hailed as “one of the bravest, most intriguing musicians on the American fusion scene” by Gramophone Magazine. The trio fertilizes American roots music with contemporary and international influences, bringing an exciting and personal perspective to the acoustic music scene.

Terence Blanchard

April 13 | 7:30 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Terence Blanchard has been a consistent artistic force for making powerful musical statements concerning painful American tragedies — past and present. A true “Renaissance” man, Blanchard stands tall as one of jazz’s most-esteemed trumpeters and defies expectations by creating a spectrum of artistic pursuits. Boundary-breaking and genre-defying, Blanchard is recognized globally as a dazzling soloist and a prolific composer for film, television, opera, Broadway, orchestras and for his own ensembles.

Joshua Kane | Borders of the Mind

April 17–19 | Times vary | Nesbitt Elliott Playhouse

Can he read your mind? Discover your inner superhero in Mentalist Joshua Kane’s amazing interactive performance. Entire audiences experience simultaneous telepathy, and witness dazzling feats of lie detection and what must be psychic phenomena. People of all ages leap to participate in the strange happenings at the Borders of the

Mind. In 2022 the Psychic Entertainers Association awarded Joshua the Dunninger Memorial Award, their highest honor, "Awarded for Distinguished Professionalism in the Performance of Mentalism."

Alvin Ailey® American Dance Theater
April 18 and 19 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

Celebrating over 60 years of unparalleled artistry, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater never fails to remind us of the power of dance to bring people together. These dancers dazzle with their trademark technical brilliance and passionate energy and bring audiences to their feet at every performance. The ground-breaking, forward-thinking company returns with new and classic works, including founder Alvin Ailey's masterpiece Revelations, the "Ailey gift that somehow keeps on giving" (The New York Times).

Robert Battle — Artistic Director

Matthew Rushing — Associate Artistic Director

Insidious | The Further You Fear
May 16 and 17 | 8 p.m. | Ikeda Theater

The terrifying world of INSIDIOUS™ comes to life in INSIDIOUS: THE FURTHER YOU FEAR, an immersive horror experience that truly blurs the lines between reality and fiction. Join a live ghost-hunting seminar led by the notorious Spectral Sightings team, only to watch as it descends into a bone-chilling nightmare, transforming the safety of our world into the ominous realm of The Further. Your courage will be tested as you meet face-to-face with the darkest entities from the INSIDIOUS™ saga, in an experience so vivid and frightening that will keep you glued to your seat from start to finish.

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).

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