



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **La Santa Cecilia Celebrates a Burgeoning Bicultural Generation Through Energetic Pan-American Rhythms of the Past, Present and Future**

***Grammy-winning Mexican-American band draws on a wide range of genres to create vibrant, contemporary music that addresses today's socio-political climate with humanity and hope***

**Vancouver, BC — The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts** at the University of British Columbia welcomes LA-based quartet **La Santa Cecilia**—featuring **Marisol ‘La Marisoul’ Hernández** (vocals), **Jose ‘Pepe’ Carlos** (accordion/requinto), **Miguel ‘Oso’ Ramírez** (percussion), and **Alex Bendaña** (bass)—for a dynamic live performance that explores a vast musical landscape where cumbia, bossa nova, rumba, bolero, tango, jazz, rock, and klezmer intertwine. Since forming in 2007, the West Coast legends have become a beloved voice of a new bicultural generation in the US, fully immersed in modern music but also staying true to their Mexican heritage. La Santa Cecilia performs in the Chan Shun Concert Hall on Saturday April 4, 2020 at 8pm.

“La Santa Cecilia is a band that encompasses many aspects of what makes music so special—passionate playing that shines with expertise and raw talent, lyrics that speak truth to power and seek social justice and political change, and a fun-loving live performance that always leaves fans and new listeners wanting more,” says Joyce Hinton, Co-Managing Director of the Chan Centre. “I’ve watched this band grow and evolve over the past several years and am so excited to be presenting them at this stage in their career. They have become such incredible cultural leaders—not only bringing people of all walks of life together with their music, but inspiring individuals to participate in their communities and use their voices to better society as a whole.”

Named for the patron saint of music, La Santa Cecilia got their start on LA’s Olvera Street, where lead singer Marisol ‘La Marisoul’ Hernandez originally met requinto player Jose Carlos while busking. They recruited fellow members Miguel ‘Oso’ Ramirez and Alex Bendaña and started creating music and writing lyrics based on their shared experiences and influences. In the years since, both artistic and personal growth has shaped the evolution of the band’s bold and creative sound, one where “strong songwriting, expert musicianship and hard work is the ‘secret’ of their success” (*NPR*). Mariachi influences fuse with jazz and bossa nova; rock anthems celebrate West Coast latinx rhythms; and pop ballads emerge from themes of personal loss and grief. The *LA Times* says, “They have made a national name for themselves with their stew of Latin-infused sounds, tunes that deftly blend norteño, ska, and rock for songs that are greater than the sum of their parts.”

The artists that make up La Santa Cecilia have also been deeply impacted by the current political climate and issues surrounding immigration between the US and Mexico. “Our band member, Pepe Carlos, was undocumented for 27 years of his life,” says percussionist Ramirez. “So much of our family history and lineage has to do with immigration and coming to this country and our experiences as bicultural people.” The band’s 2013 song “ICE El Hielo” addresses this topic, shining a light on the resilience and strength of immigrants in the face of discrimination, deportation, and devastating family separations.

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La Santa Cecilia won the Grammy for Best Latin Rock Album in 2014 for the album *Treinta Dias*. They were nominated in the same category for their album *Buenaventura* in 2017, and for *Amar Y Vivir*—a highly acclaimed record that marked a return to the band’s roots and featured their take on traditional Mexican music—in 2018. Their music has been featured in the Oscar-winning Pixar film *Coco*, as well as the television series *Weeds*, *The Bridge*, and *Ingobernable (Ungovernable)*. With seven albums under their belt, La Santa Cecilia released their latest self-titled album in October 2019, their first sung entirely in English, and toured Europe for the first time this past fall. La Marisoul recently performed at the Joni Mitchell at 75 tribute at the Music Center in Los Angeles, and with the LA Philharmonic at BREATHEWATCHLISTENTOUCH: The Work and Music of Yoko Ono at the Hollywood Bowl.

### **Chan Centre Connects Events**

Programmed in conjunction with Chan Centre performances, exploring the role of arts and artists in society.

- **Pre-show Talk with Valentina Acevedo Montilla – Saturday April 4, 7:15pm in the Royal Bank Cinema at the Chan Centre.**

### **About the Chan Centre for Performing Arts at UBC**

Since 1997, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts has earned an international reputation for its striking design, stellar acoustics, and exceptional programming. Artists, critics, and patrons alike are unanimous in their praise of the facility, winning it a place among North America's top-rated performing arts spaces. Featuring three unique venues—the Chan Shun Concert Hall, the Telus Studio Theatre, and the Royal Bank Cinema—the Chan Centre is a vital part of UBC campus and community life where artistic and academic disciplines merge to inspire new perspectives on the world around us. Past performers and speakers include Wynton Marsalis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Renée Fleming, Dan Savage, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and Anoushka Shankar.

#### **LISTING INFORMATION**

Date:	<b>Chan Centre Presents: La Santa Cecilia</b> Saturday April 4, 2020 at 8pm
Ticket Prices:	From \$38
Address:	Chan Centre for the Performing Arts University of British Columbia 6265 Crescent Road Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Box Office:	604-822-2697 / <a href="http://chancentre.com">chancentre.com</a> Open Tue–Sat, 12pm–5pm
Website:	<a href="http://chancentre.com">chancentre.com</a>
Link to Artist Photos:	<a href="http://chancentre.com/press-downloads">chancentre.com/press-downloads</a>

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Chan Centre for the Performing Arts