



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 2020

The Amir Amiri Ensemble kicks off the Chan Centre 2021 Dot Com Series with an exclusive performance that blends traditional Persian music with modern elements

Vancouver, BC — The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia will welcome the **Amir Amiri Ensemble** to launch the second installment of its Dot Com Series with an all-new concert filmed in Montreal. Led by acclaimed composer, santur virtuoso, and educator **Amir Amiri**, the impressive ensemble of musicians also includes **Sardar Mohamad Jani** (oud), **Reza Abaee** (ghaychak), **Hamin Honari** (percussion), and **Omar Abu Afech** (viola) performing a program of Amiri's luminous compositions intertwined with arrangements of traditional Persian folk and classical pieces. This virtual presentation of the Amir Amiri Ensemble will premiere on January 29, 2021 at 7pm PT with an online watch party and live chat, and will remain available for on demand viewing until May 31, 2021.

"I have long admired Amir Amiri's artistic curiosity and appetite for exploring all the ways to take his traditional instrument to new and interesting places," says **Dr. T. Patrick Carrabré**, Director of the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. "It's very exciting to welcome this accomplished composer and master of the santur, along with his talented ensemble, to the Dot Com Series for a special performance that you won't find anywhere else."

Based in Montreal, Amir Amiri was born in Tehran, Iran, where much of his youth was spent studying the santur, a 72-string hammer dulcimer that lies at the heart of Persian music. Classically trained, Amiri has always sought to explore the limits of his music, stretching beyond conventional thought. Arriving in Canada in 1996, he found the ability to do just that while in residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, a haven of inspiration to which he has returned many times. Since then, Amiri has worked extensively as a performer, composer, musical director and consultant for numerous Canadian dance and theatre companies, orchestras, and concert series.

Inspired by the diversity and fluidity of the many musical styles of their homeland, the Amir Amiri Ensemble creates an engaging and distinctive sound fusing the refinement of traditional and spiritual Persian music with folkloric and modern elements. This dynamic performance features both full ensemble pieces as well as intimate solos that showcase the musical depth and range of instruments including the tombak (Iranian goblet drum), ghaychak (Iranian bowed lute) and santur.

About the Dot Com Series

The Chan Centre Dot Com Series launched in September 2020 in light of restrictions on gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Delivered 100% online, the series features a wide range of remarkable performing artists, both locally and internationally based, bringing Chan

Centre audiences exclusive performances filmed both at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts and elsewhere around the world. Past performers include Jeremy Dutcher, PIQSIQ, Cristina Pato, and Brendan McLeod.

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

Dates:

Online Ticket Prices:

Address:

Ticket Office:

Website:

Link to Artist Photos:

Chan Centre Dot Com Series (online only)

Watch online from January 29, 2021

\$0/\$10/\$20 (Supported/Regular/Supportive)

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Chan Centre for the Performing Arts