



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2022

Decolonize the Chan this March with acclaimed Indigenous artists

Leonard Sumner, Elisapie, and Moe Clark

As selected by guest curator Marion Newman, illustrious mezzo-soprano

Vancouver, BC — The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia presents the mini-series *Decolonize the Chan*, with events on March 5 (Leonard Sumner), March 11 (Elisapie) and March 26 (Moe Clark: Feast of the Invisible), supported by Presenting Sponsor RBC. The artists selected by Chan Centre guest curator Marion Newman each have their own unique sound but all are at the forefront of advocacy and art, placing their Indigeneity and lived experiences at the centre of their music.

“The artists we present in March fuse their personhood with their art,” says Pat Carrabré, Director of the Chan Centre. “Each of them are telling the stories of their lives and of their peoples’ histories. These are stories of joy and pride in their music, but also of resistance and resilience in the face of colonization and systemic discrimination. They refuse erasure. Whether its in uplifting their communities, celebrating motherhood, or simply asserting their Indigeneity with poetry, these dynamic artists showcase the rich depth and breadth of Indigenous music in this country.”

Anishinaabek MC and singer/songwriter **Leonard Sumner** kicks off the series on March 5 with tracks from his most recent album, *Thunderbird*. Unflinching in its narratives, the album is a fusion of hip-hop, spoken word, and R&B that brings home deep truths about residential schools, urban life, and the grief of losing a parent. Released on his daughter’s first birthday and named in honour of his mother, whose spirit name means Brown Thunderbird, the album is a journey of love, grief, pain, and stories carried inter-generationally.

JUNO and Felix Award winner **Elisapie** is an Inuk singer, songwriter, film director and activist. On March 11, the genre-bending multilingual artist performs songs from her most recent album, *The Ballad of the Runaway Girl*. The critically-acclaimed album explores the sounds of folk, indie rock and blues and was shortlisted for the prestigious Polaris Prize. In her graceful and urgent anthems of Inuit ancestry, Elisapie confronts the violence of colonialism while harnessing the deep strength that comes from Indigenous interconnectedness to the land, animals, and people.

On March 26, Two-Spirit Métis multi-disciplinary artist and activist **Moe Clark** presents a poetic, multi-dimensional experience that resonates with healing, celebration, and profound spiritual connection. She fuses vocal improvisation with multilingual lyricism to create meaning rooted in personal legacy, ancestral memory and embodied knowledge. Drawing from Indigenous creation stories, earth-based ceremonial practices and a desire for musical expansion, Moe Clark ignites the stage in *Feast of the Invisible*. Joined by six stellar musicians, together their sounds traverse jazz, folk, trance, and têtewêhikan (hand drum) music, animating songs in Cree, Ojibwe, Inuktitut, and English.

Event Listings

Leonard Sumner | SAT MAR 5 at 8PM

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A troubadour of the now, the Winnipeg-based Anishinaabek MC/singer/songwriter Leonard Sumner's new album *Thunderbird* is unflinching in its narratives, while its fusion of hip-hop, spoken word, roots, and rhythm and blues brings home deep truths about residential schools, urban life, and the loss of his mother. The album is a journey of love, grief, pain, and stories carried inter-generationally. Discover Sumner's head-bobbing beats, smoky flow, and his uncanny way of drawing you into dense, observational verses before dropping a killer chorus hook that resonates in your head long after you've finished listening.

Elisapie | FRI MAR 11 at 8PM

The genre-bending, multilingual artist Elisapie moves between Inuktitut, English, and French as she explores folk music, textural indie rock, poetics, and the breadth and depth of contemporary Indigenous culture. Hailed as "a powerful record, and a rare album where both the music and narrative are equally stunning" by *Exclaim!*, her latest full-length, *The Ballad of The Runaway Girl*, was shortlisted for the prestigious Polaris Prize in 2019. Elisapie confronts the violence of colonialism while harnessing the deep strength that comes from Indigenous interconnectedness to the land, animals, and people.

Moe Clark: Feast of the Invisible | SAT MAR 26 at 8PM

Drawing from Indigenous creation stories, earth-based ceremonial practices and a deep desire for musical expansion, Métis two-spirit singing thunderbird Moe Clark ignites the stage with six musicians bringing sounds of jazz, folk, trance and t  w  hikan (hand drum) songs to life. Journey between visible and invisible worlds as animal and ancestral spirits come to life in this musical feast. At once mythical and magical, *Feast of the Invisible / w  hkohk  win*, is a multi-dimensional musical experience you won't forget.

Ticketing

Ticket Office: chan.tickets@ubc.ca or 604.822.2697
Price: Students \$15
Self-Identifying Indigenous Peoples \$15
Adult \$20-\$45
Website: chancentre.com

About the Chan Centre for Performing Arts

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, Ren  e Fleming, Dan Savage, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and Anoushka Shankar.

Link to artist photos

chancentre.com/press-downloads

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