



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Innovative jazz artists Hiromi and Aaron Diehl to make *Chan Centre Presents* debuts for 26th season
Chan Centre Presents subscriptions available from May 11

Vancouver, BC — **The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts** at the University of British Columbia announced today two unmissable events for any jazz lover: **Hiromi’s Sonicwonder on Saturday, October 7 at 8PM** and **Aaron Diehl on Friday, April 19 at 8PM**.

“Hiromi is a truly electrifying artist who keeps you sitting on the edge of your seat during the entire performance,” says guest curator David Fung. “Not only is she a fiercely virtuosic pianist, she seamlessly blends unbridled enthusiasm and ebullience with heartfelt sincerity. Though she is considered a jazz artist, she defies the traditions of many genres, infusing the richness and breadth of jazz piano with pop and classical. A superstar in the jazz world, Hiromi is one of the few Asian women in the industry that has transcended gender and race.”

Hiromi, who goes by the single moniker for her stage name, was born in Hamamatsu, Japan. After studies at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where she was mentored by the late Ahmad Jamal and bassist Richard Evans, Hiromi went on to release her debut album *Another Mind* in 2003, co-produced by both mentors. The album won the Recording Industry of Japan’s Jazz Album of the Year award. She performed at the opening ceremonies of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and later that year, released the emotionally charged album *Silver Lining Suite*.

An irrepressibly innovative musician and composer, Hiromi fuses jazz, classical, rock, and avant-garde. Her virtuosic playing, technical command, and self-assurance have created a powerhouse performer, described by *The Guardian* as a “Japanese hybrid of Oscar Peterson and Franz Liszt who can race through grand chromatic flourishes, negotiate dainty modal solos and swing like the clappers – usually all at once.”

For this concert, she brings her latest project, “Sonicwonder,” an electrified 4-piece band with heavy groove, featuring Adam O’Farrill on trumpet, Hadrien Feraud on bass, and Gene Coye on drums.

Aaron Diehl grew up in Columbus, Ohio and studied both jazz and classical at the Juilliard School. An “up-and-coming force in jazz” (*NPR*), in 2011, he won the Cole Porter Fellowship from the American Pianists Association. In 2013, Diehl released the critically acclaimed album *The Bespoke Man’s Narrative*. He followed this with *Space Time Continuum* in 2015, praised as a “jubilant, swinging outing” by *The New York Times*. His latest, *The Vagabond* (2020) was named one *Stereogum’s* Best Jazz Albums. Other career highlights include featured solo appearances with the New York Philharmonic, LA Philharmonic, and Cleveland Orchestra, as well as a tour with Wynton Marsalis.

“Like Hiromi, I was excited about programming Aaron Diehl as his impeccable artistry is rooted in both his jazz and classical training,” continues Fung. “Often intimate and emotionally rich in nature, Diehl’s performances are acoustical jewel boxes where he converses with the audience using a lush palette of pianistic color.”

Subscriptions will go on sale May 11, a later date than the originally scheduled May 5. Single tickets will be available from June 13. Hiromi’s Sonicwonder and Aaron Diehl join the previously announced Anoushka Shankar for the 26th season.

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Event Listing

Hiromi's Sonicwonder | SAT OCT 7 at 8PM, Chan Shun Concert Hall

Hiromi Uehara, known onstage simply as Hiromi, brings a vivacious energy to the jazz piano world. Born in Shizuoka, Japan, Hiromi began studying the piano at a young age and pursued studies at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where she was mentored by jazz musician Ahmad Jamal and bassist Richard Evans. The influences of swing, groove, and ragtime are infectious in her performance, as she dances in between the lines of pop-jazz and blues. Musical traditions serve as a jumping-off point for her “to jackknife through the stratosphere” (*The New York Times*). Her new project “Sonicwonder” is an electrified 4-piece band with heavy groove, featuring Adam O’Farrill on trumpet, Hadrien Feraud on bass, and Gene Coye on drums.

Aaron Diehl | FRI APR 19 at 8PM, Chan Shun Concert Hall

American pianist Aaron Diehl’s playing easily slides between the worlds of classical and jazz. Named the Cole Porter Fellow in Jazz by the American Pianists Association in 2011, Diehl has worked with jazz legend Wynton Marsalis, composer Philip Glass, and the New York Philharmonic. An artist who operates outside of genre boxes, Diehl presents his playing as an organic multi-faceted whole, inviting listeners into a sonic world that has a variety of influences from Bach to church hymns to blues. Diehl’s voice is present in this musical language throughout, weaving an individualistic flair that moves without restriction from one style to the next.

Ticketing

Subscriptions for *Chan Centre Presents* go on sale May 11. Single tickets available from June 13.

Ticket Office: chan.tickets@ubc.ca or 604.822.2697

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, Renée Fleming, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and David Suzuki.

For further media information:

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