

CHAN CENTRE

presents

APR 15 / 7 PM

Rhiannon Giddens



Canada

Rhiannon Giddens

SUPPORTING ACT

Charly Lowry

INTERMISSION

PERFORMANCE

Rhiannon Giddens

Rhiannon Giddens, *lead vocals & banjo*
Dirk Powell, *guitar, accordion & keys*
Nlwel Tsumba, *guitar*
Attis Clopton, *drums*
Jason Sypher, *bass*
Francesco Turissi, *accordion & keys*

Programmed by curator-in-residence Jarrett Martineau

Photography and videography are prohibited.

Please turn off your cellphones.

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 /chan.centre.ubc

ǰa tǎ nǎ Chan Centre for the Performing Arts ʔamǎt
ʔi ʔǎ tǎ nǎ ǰxʷmǎθkʷǎyǎmaʔǔ tǎmǎxʷ

The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts is situated
within the heart of Musqueam traditional territory

The Chan Centre would like to thank the Chan Endowment Fund and the
UBC Faculty of Arts for their continued support.

The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts welcomes all Chan Centre Youth
Pass guests in attendance at tonight's performance and gratefully
acknowledges Chan Family Foundation and Heritage Canada for
making this program possible.

Rhiannon Giddens

Rhiannon Giddens has made a singular, iconic career out of stretching her brand of folk music, with its miles-deep historical roots and contemporary sensibilities, into just about every field imaginable. A two-time GRAMMY Award-winning singer and instrumentalist, MacArthur “Genius” grant recipient, and composer of opera, ballet, and film, Giddens has centered her work around the mission of lifting up people whose contributions to American musical history have previously been overlooked or erased, and advocating for a more accurate understanding of the country’s musical origins through art.

As Pitchfork once said, “few artists are so fearless and so ravenous in their exploration”—a journey that has led to NPR naming her one of its 25 Most Influential Women Musicians of the 21st Century and to American Songwriter calling her “one of the most important musical minds currently walking the planet.”

Giddens also is exploring other mediums and creative possibilities just as actively as she has American musical history. With 1858 replica minstrel banjo in hand, she wrote the opera *Omar* with film composer Michael Abels (*Get Out*, *Us*, *Nope*) and, with her partner Francesco Turrisi, she wrote and performed the music for *Black Lucy and the Bard*, which was recorded for PBS’ *Great Performances*; she has appeared on the ABC hit drama *Nashville* and throughout Ken Burns’ *Country Music* series, also on PBS. Giddens has published children’s books and written and performed music for the soundtrack of *Red Dead Redemption II*, one of the best-selling video games of all time. She sang for the Obamas at the White House; is a three-time NPR *Tiny Desk Concert* alum; and hosts her own show on PBS, *My Music with Rhiannon Giddens*, as well as the *Aria Code* podcast, which is produced by New York City’s NPR affiliate station WQXR.

“I’ve been able to create a lot of different things around stories that are difficult to tell, and managed to get them done in a way that’s gotten noticed,” as Giddens puts it. “I know who to collaborate with, and it has gotten me into all sorts of corners that I would have never expected when I started doing this.”

Charly Lowry

Charly Lowry, a musical powerhouse from Pembroke, NC, is proud to be an Indigenous woman belonging to the Lumbee/Tuscarora Tribes. As an Artist, she is compassionate as it pertains to raising awareness around issues that plague underrecognized and under-resourced communities. Since her teenage years of studying the sounds of Motown, Pura Fé, Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, and southern gospel, Charly has established a career as a professional singer-songwriter (acoustic/electric guitar and Native American hand drum) who is known for her strong, passionate voice and versatility. Over the past two decades Lowry earned a Top 32 spot on Season 3 of American Idol, received two kidney transplants, toured extensively and internationally (US, Europe, Canada) as lead singer and recording artist of the multi award-winning band, Dark Water Rising, collaborated with numerous artists, bands, television networks and productions, organizations including (Ulaí, Rhiannon Giddens, New Mastersounds, Decolonizing Wealth, PBS, "RUMBLE: Indians Who Rocked the World"), and served as executive-director of "Peace in the Park". Currently spearheading her most recent project, "CHARLY", Lowry's life experiences are guiding her in a music career that is focused upon increasing Indigenous visibility on a global scale; revitalizing and preserving culture, whilst exploring genres of world, soul, country, folk, blues, rock, and roots music.

Among her community, Native women are traditionally barred from the hand-drum, singing behind the men's drum and/or dancing instead. Lowry defies that norm, following in the footsteps of her mentor Pura Fé; choosing to battle with her songs, storytelling, hand drum, and guitar to deliver performances that not only tell the plight of her people but all humankind that face oppression. Robeson County, her home, is one of the most diverse counties in the U.S., and Charly celebrates the diversity of those southern, rural swamps in all aspects of her life. While she may be familiar to some from her success as a semi-finalist on American Idol, she has maintained close ties to her Native American roots and culture.

She serves as a voice for her ancestors, as well as the youth of today, and remains committed to music that honors roots but lives vibrantly in the here and now.

