

National Music Centre reveals 2019 winter/spring lineup for Alberta Spotlight

Live music series to feature Karella, The Shiverettes, Karl Hirzer with Allyson Hop, and more

(Calgary, AB — December 11, 2018) The National Music Centre (NMC) will kick off the 2019 season of its popular monthly concert series, Alberta Spotlight, with a new crop of talent and music spanning genres from soca to grindcore and classical to country.

With an aim to capture the breadth and diversity of Alberta's music scene, the series is an evolving audio portrait of the province right now.

"We know that Alberta's musical output is impressive, and we're proud to bring this program back and continue to showcase and support the burgeoning talent emerging from our own backyard," said Adam Fox, NMC's Director of Programs.

Alberta Spotlight winter/spring program schedule:

- January 19—Edmonton soul-soca singer Karella at the King Eddy
- February 9—R&B powerhouse Lynn Olagundoye with Karimah at Studio Bell in celebration of Black History Month
- March 23—Rising country stars The Prairie States at Studio Bell at Studio Bell
- April 18—Punk-rock outfit The Shiverettes with Wares and Mademoiselle at the King Eddy
- May 16—Pianist Karl Hirzer with operatic soprano Allyson Hop at Studio Bell
- June 28—Grindcore band Wake with Begrime Exemious on the King Eddy Rooftop Patio

Tickets go on sale to all six upcoming events on Tuesday, December 11 at 10:00 am at nmc.ca/whats-on.

An Edmonton-bred singer, **Karella** seamlessly blends R&B, soul, reggae and soca into a danceable concoction that represents all aspects of her musical influences and Trinidadian culture.

"My Trinidadian roots mean the world to me, so naturally bringing the love of my culture to the place I was raised is a huge blessing," said Karella. "What I love about Alberta is we are open to expanding our horizons and learning and embracing each other's cultures. It's a beautiful thing to watch a crowd full of different cultures, backgrounds, and ethnicities enjoying my music together. That's what the music of the Caribbean is all about!"

Recalling neo-soul singers like Erykah Badu and Jill Scott, **Lynn Olagundoye** combines the best of vintage R&B, soul, funk, and Afrobeat with a searing heartfelt delivery that leaves audiences hanging on to every word she sings.

The Prairie States make catchy country songs informed by '60s soul and '70s rock. As the 2018 winners of Project WILD, they've been turning music industry heads and blazing a burning trail on the independent country music circuit.

Hailing from Calgary/Treaty 7 territory, **The Shiverettes** come equipped with gnarly riffs, snotty attitude, and brash honesty. With a sound that's been compared to The Stooges, Seven Year Bitch, and MC5, the four-piece push their Feminist Agenda™ with a heavy dose of sass, side eye, and shade.

Pianist **Karl Hirzer**, also the Associate Conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and Calgary-born operatic soprano **Allyson Hop** join forces to present an art song recital of music by Richard Strauss and Leonard Bernstein. Born out of the desire to set poetry to music, the medium of art song remains one of the most intimate and affecting forms within the classical genre.

"The roots of the 'song' as we know it today can be traced back to some of the greatest classical composers, and the simple idea of a short piece of music for voice and piano. These are pieces that are easily digestible but also brimming with poignancy and refinement," said Karl Hirzer. "Calgary and its vibrant music scene have given so much to both of us, and we are beyond excited to collaborate on this very cool concert in such a unique venue like Studio Bell."

Five-piece unit **Wake** delivers crushing grindcore or what *Noisey* has described as a "grinding blast of misanthropic therapy." Wake's latest 2018 offering, *Misery Rites*, continues to draw critical acclaim while blowing out every eardrum in its path.

Tickets for Alberta Spotlight events are on sale now. Please go to nmc.ca/whats-on to purchase your tickets in advance.

NMC Members receive discounted admission to Alberta Spotlight, so purchase your membership online today! Details at studiobell.ca/members.

Special thanks to the Viewpoint Foundation for their support. Thanks also to media partner theYYScene.

About Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre

The National Music Centre (NMC) is a national catalyst for discovery, innovation and renewal through music. In its new home at Studio Bell, NMC is preserving and celebrating Canada's music story and inspiring a new generation of music lovers through programming that includes on-site and outreach education programs, performances, artist incubation, and exhibitions. For more information, please visit nmc.ca.

Media Contact:

Julijana Capone, Senior Publicist

National Music Centre

T 403.543.5123 | C 403.710.4758

julijana.capone@nmc.ca | @nmc_canada

