

For Immediate Release

Acclaimed Ukrainian Quartet DakhaBrakha Brings Theatrical, Multimedia Performance to Arts Commons Presents this April

March 11, 2024 - CALGARY – In a genre coined by the group themselves, the “ethnic-chaos” band from Ukraine, DakhaBrakha is a dazzling blast of showmanship. A world music phenomenon, DakhaBrakha brings their incomparable concert experience to Calgary for an evening of cultural celebration and protest. Join Arts Commons Presents and the BD&P World Stage series on **Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** for **DakhaBrakha** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** at **Arts Commons**. Learn more at artscommons.ca/dakhabrakha.

DakhaBrakha was formed in 2004 at the Kyiv Centre of Contemporary Art by avant-garde theatre director Vladyslav Troitskyi. These theatrical roots are woven throughout their performances with dramatic staging, multimedia elements, and bold costuming. Celebrated as being “open, passionate, and joyous” (Chicago Reader) with “a magnetism that captivates audiences and makes them want to come back” (The Fire Station), DakhaBrakha has made their mark around the world, sharing their trans-national sound rooted in Ukrainian culture. They’ve been hailed as “Best Breakout” of the Bonnaroo Music and Art Festival by Rolling Stone and were honoured with the Shevchenko National Prize in 2020, the highest state prize of Ukraine for works of culture and arts.

The quartet includes Marko Halanevych (vocals, darbuka, tabla, accordion), Iryna Kovalenko (vocals, djembe, bass drums, accordion, percussion, bugay, zgaleyka, piano), Olena Tsybulska (vocals, bass drums, percussion, garmoshka), and Nina Garenetska (vocals, cello, bass drum).

Their name, DakhaBrakha, means “give/take” in the old Ukrainian language and is expressed in their fluid exchange of cultural influences, using not only Ukrainian traditional instrumentation but Indian, Arabic, and African as well. But DakhaBrakha’s intercultural conversation doesn’t end with their distinctive sound. For years, DakhaBrakha have called themselves “ambassadors of free Ukraine” and now, more than ever, they are shouting that message loud and clear with calls of “Stop Putin!” and “No war!” as an ever-present element in their performances.

“It’s really complicated to find this balance between art and political expression,” says Marko Halanevych. “There are a lot of wonderful, creative people here, people who are now striving for freedom, for a more civilized way of life, and are ready to stand up for it. We want people to know as much as possible about our corner of the world.”

Arriving in Calgary only a few weeks after the second anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, this performance caps off the 2023-24 season of the BD&P World Stage series from Arts Commons Presents with a powerful resonance for the city’s considerable population of Ukrainian-Canadians as well as world music fans. Supporting DakhaBrakha’s performance will be local Ukrainian musicians, **Iryna Kalinovich and Khrystyna Kolodii**, performing in the lobby of the Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons.

“I have been looking forward to this show since first arriving in September. Hearing the sounds and touching the artistry of a country in such terrible strife is one the major ways the arts can connect all of us,” says VP of

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Programming, Sarah Garton Stanley (SGS). "DakhaBrakha, and their musical messages from Ukraine, break the world music genre wide open."

Arts Commons's Associate Director of Creative, Josh Dalledonne says, "They're energizing and fierce. Seeing them perform live is an experience Calgary won't want to miss."

The **BD&P World Stage** series from Arts Commons Presents is in its 23rd season of bringing the best that the world has to offer to Calgary's spectacular Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons, giving our city the chance to experience something completely new. This season has shared **The Triplets of Belleville: 20th Anniversary Film in Concert** in early November, followed by the beloved holiday tradition of **The Barra MacNeils: An East Coast Christmas**, **Circa: Humans 2.0** and **Malpaso Dance Company with Arturo O'Farrill & the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra** in February and March.

Arts Commons Presents is the programming arm of Arts Commons, presenting a diverse line-up of concerts, speaker presentations, youth programming, and emerging artist showcases including the three signature series of BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, and National Geographic Live. To learn about all the shows in the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents, visit [acpresents.ca](https://www.artsccommons.ca). The next season of Arts Commons Presents will be announced later this spring – stay tuned!

What: Arts Commons Presents – DakhaBrakha
When: Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons
Preshow: Iryna Kalinovich and Khrystyna Kolodii
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit [artsccommons.ca/dakhabrakha](https://www.artsccommons.ca/dakhabrakha)

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to ACP Signature Series Presenting Sponsor **Burnett, Duckworth & Palmer**, supporting sponsors **ALSA Road Construction** and **SerVantage Services** as well as the **Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage**, the **Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts**, and our friends at **The City of Calgary**.

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, the TD Amplify series, as well as special presentations. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists to perform, exhibit, reach new audiences, and grow on a multitude of levels.