



**For Immediate Release**

## **Pink Floyd's Iconic Album, *Wish You Were Here*, Recreated by Classic Albums Live at Werklund Centre**

**January 13, 2025 – CALGARY, AB, CANADA**

You don't need to be a hardcore fan to recognize the mournful refrain of "So you think you can tell heaven from hell" from Pink Floyd's experimental masterpiece, *Wish You Were Here*. Timeless and ethereal, the album is a synth soundscape, and no small feat to reproduce flawlessly, live on stage. Fortunately, the musicians of Classic Albums Live are up to the challenge. Werklund Centre is proud to present a night of prog rock appreciation with **Pink Floyd: *Wish You Were Here* on Thursday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall at Werklund Centre**. For more information visit [werklundcentre.ca/wish](https://werklundcentre.ca/wish).



Pink Floyd's concept album, *Wish You Were Here*, occupies an interesting place in the history of the band. Released two years after the earth-shaking *Dark Side of the Moon*, *Wish You Were Here* was deeply personal in contrast with the universal themes explored in their earlier album. The latter plays out in two distinct parts: first as a tribute to Pink Floyd co-founder Syd Barrett, and second as a cynical examination of the music industry. These two parts come together in what is often viewed as one of the greatest progressive



rock albums of all time, digging into the mechanical brutality of the music industry that contributed to the downfall of Syd Barrett. The bulk of the album is taken up by "Shine On You Crazy Diamond", a nine-part tribute to Barrett, who had left the band seven years earlier due to his deteriorating mental health. In contrast, "Have a Cigar" and "Welcome to the Machine" express alienation and criticism of the music business with lyrics like "riding the gravy train" and "What did you dream. It's all right, we told you what to dream." Throughout the album, spacey distortion and understated vocals give the piece a distinct sound that has stood the test of time.

"*Wish You Were Here* was the first Pink Floyd album I ever bought," says *Wish You Were Here* lead singer Rob Phillips from Classic Albums Live. "That's what started it all for me, and there was no looking back after that!"

Classic Albums Live is a Toronto-based group that has helped to shape a new definition of live listening party, with classic albums painstakingly reproduced on stage by a line-up of expert Canadian musicians. Pink Floyd: *Wish You Were Here* features Ryan GM, Rob Phillips, Joe Piilonen, Mark Stewartson, Troy Feener, Rob Angelow, Lindsay Clark, in addition to Calgary's own Sean Craig on the saxophone and Kami Van Haley on background vocals. Werklund Centre is thrilled to celebrate the eighth season of this fan favourite series, igniting the Jack Singer Concert Hall with the best of the classic canon of music history.

**Classic Albums Live performs  
Pink Floyd: *Wish You Were Here***

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Concert: 7:30 p.m.

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Werklund Centre

Tickets available at 403-294-9494 or visit [werklundcentre.ca/wish](https://werklundcentre.ca/wish).

Werklund Centre wishes to express our sincere appreciation to our presenting sponsor EllisDon and supporting sponsor Acera Insurance as well as the Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage, Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and our friends at The City of Calgary.

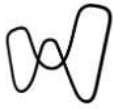
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**For media inquiries or more information contact:**

Alex Bonyun  
Community and Media Relations Manager  
Werklund Centre

[abonyun@werklundcentre.ca](mailto:abonyun@werklundcentre.ca)

403-294-7429



## Werklund Centre

**Werklund Centre** (formerly Arts Commons) is the steward of Western Canada's largest arts centre and the artistic and civic cornerstone of Calgary's downtown core that fosters the arts through live performance, educational opportunities, and artist development. For 40 years, it has been a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians—a commitment that is being renewed through the Werklund Centre Transformation project, the largest cultural infrastructure project in Canadian history. It is home to five resident companies, including Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage, Theatre Calgary, and One Yellow Rabbit. It houses six gallery spaces, five theatres, a concert hall, rehearsal and education spaces, costume and scene shops, and a restaurant.