

20
YEARS



MESA ARTS CENTER



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Mesa Arts Center Unveils 2025–2026 Performing Live Season

Tickets on sale now to Mesa Arts Center members
Tickets go on sale to the public on May 9 at noon



Additional high-res images [here](#).

Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center is excited to announce the 2025–2026 Performing Live season. Highlights include **John Cleese, MasterChef All-Stars, Penn & Teller, Stanley Clarke, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Dirty Dancing Live** and more.

A new season of **Broadway** features an exciting lineup including “**TINA – The Tina Turner Musical**,” “**HADESTOWN**” and “**Riverdance 30 – The New Generation**.” Season subscribers enjoy priority seating and the best ticket prices. From beloved classics and fresh new hits, this season offers something for everyone. The subscription series is on sale now at mesaartscenter.com/broadway.

The **National Geographic Live Speaker Series** includes **A Pirate's Life** with Lisa Briggs, **Chasing Monarchs** with Jaime Rojo, **Life on the Move** with Lucy Hawkes, **Discovering the Galapagos** with Alex Hearn and **Untangling the Mind** with Steve Ramirez. Audiences will go from the Mediterranean in search of pirate legends to the breathtaking migration of monarch butterflies, the untamed wildlife of the Galapagos and even inside the human brain. Each show offers awe-inspiring visuals, first-hand experiences and groundbreaking insights that bring our planet to life. The subscription series is on sale now at mesaartscenter.com/natgeolive.

Classical Music Inside Out returns for its 13th season under the artistic direction of GRAMMY® Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey. This year's series brings world-renowned talent to the stage, including **Mark and Maggie O'Connor**, **Pablo Sainz-Villegas**, **Zuill Bailey and Friends**, **Olga Kern** and **Christian McBride and Edgar Meyer**. The subscription series is on sale now at mesaartscenter.com/cmio.

Performing Live events are listed below in chronological order. Additional shows will be announced throughout the season. **Tickets are on sale to Mesa Arts Center Premier Circle members now and go on sale to the public on Friday, May 9, at noon.** Mesa Arts Center memberships start at \$75. [Become a member today](#) and purchase tickets before they go on sale to the public.

To purchase tickets, please visit mesaartscenter.com or call the box office during business hours at 480-644-6500. Purchasing tickets through Mesa Arts Center is the best and most reliable way to receive the latest information on show schedules, seating options and all performance updates or changes while enjoying a seamless experience.

Performing Live 2025–2026:

The Circus Farm

July 13, 20, 27, 2025

The Circus Farm returns! Escape the summer heat and join us for a family-friendly Mesa Arts Center experience. The day features a 60-minute air-conditioned family circus, with games, balloons, juggling, unicycle stunts, a hula hoop, LED lighted props, a giant robot and Aerial Lollipop. Also, be sure to come early to enjoy a pre-show experience hosted by MABEL (Mobile Arts Based Engagement Lab). MABEL is an adaptable and flexible creative space and pop-up arts center on wheels with activities meant to create connections on the spot, prompt discussion, catalyze change and spark creativity through the arts.

The Australian Pink Floyd Show: Wish You Were Here 50th Anniversary Aug. 22, 2025

Performing the music of Pink Floyd with note for note perfection, this critically acclaimed show has been astonishing audiences worldwide for more than three decades. Always striving to reproduce the complete Pink Floyd experience and bring the music to new audiences, the show continues to include a stunning light and laser show, video animations, state of the art, high resolution LED screen technology and other special effects. In addition, and in true Pink Floyd fashion, there are several huge inflatables including a giant pig and their own unique Pink Kangaroo.

Hidden Brain on Tour!

Aug. 23, 2025

Are there parts of our minds that are hidden from us? This question launched the Hidden Brain podcast ten years ago. Since then, Hidden Brain has helped millions of listeners accomplish their goals, improve their relationships, and develop a deeper understanding of their emotions. Now, host and creator Shankar Vedantam brings seven key insights from the first decade of Hidden Brain to the stage. Whether you're new to the show or a longtime listener, this evening of science and storytelling will change how you think about yourself. Come share your own thoughts and ideas with Shankar and other fans of the show!

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox

Magic & Moonlight tour

Aug. 29, 2025

Even in the age of AI and virtual realities, there is nothing that compares with the thrill of hearing classic genres of music, performed live. The revamped show will blend modern-day earworms and iconic pop hits with the original styles that put American popular music on the map: Ragtime, Swing, Big Band, Country / Western, Doo Wop and Soul. Everything New is Old Again - leave the AI at home and take a road trip to experience Life In The Past Lane! Dressing in vintage attire is encouraged.

Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

Will Wood: Mr. Wood is Dead

10 Year Anniversary Tour

with support from Fish in a Birdcage

Aug. 31, 2025

In the ten years since the release of his debut album, indie singer-songwriter Will Wood has played the roles of drug-addled shock jockey, cryptic art-rock recluse, self-deprecating chamber-pop balladeer, and storytelling alt-comic with paradoxically equal parts authenticity and theatricality. While it may have served Wood well to fall in line with the demands many artists face when confronted with an unexpected viral moment, the cult singer-songwriter has remained defiantly himself. In the theater, Wood's emotive storytelling and standup intertwines with his widely varying style of music in a way that refuses to conform to either tradition, and when with his band, his raucous "Tapeworms" concerts are equally unconventional. His upcoming "Mr. Wood is Dead" 10-year-anniversary tour will be bringing both around the country, in front of larger audiences than ever before.

For ages 18+

Presented in partnership with Live Nation.

Alicia Villarreal

Sep. 5, 2025

Latin GRAMMY®-winning artist Alicia Villarreal returns to the stage with her highly anticipated Donde Todo Comenzó 2.0 (Where It All Began 2.0) tour. After kicking off in Mexico, the beloved Mexican songstress will bring her signature blend of ranchera and

Tejano hits to major cities across the U.S. and Mexico through November 2025. Fans can expect an unforgettable evening of emotional ballads and high-energy anthems, including classics like Te Quedó Grande La Yegua and Ay Papacito. Don't miss the chance to experience Alicia Villarreal live!

Not Dead Yet!

John Cleese and The Holy Grail at 50

Sep. 6, 2025

Living comedy legend, John Cleese, returns to Mesa for a truly unforgettable evening of conversation and audience Q&A. Absurd and/or ridiculous questions only are requested, please. John will tell stories of his life and career and you just may finally find out the air-speed of an unladen swallow. The audience will get to see Monty Python and the Holy Grail in its entirety on the big screen.

Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

Wardruna

with special guest Chelsea Wolfe

Sept. 7, 2025

Wardruna returns to Mesa Arts Center with Birna, their sixth studio album, set for release on January 24, 2025. Rooted in ancient traditions yet resonating with modern soundscapes, Birna is a tribute to the bear—nature's lost guardian—symbolizing the balance between humanity and the wild. Led by composer Einar Selvik, Wardruna continues to weave powerful, immersive soundscapes using ancient instruments, Nordic mythology, and the raw voice of nature. Don't miss this opportunity to experience their mesmerizing live performance, where past and present merge in a ritual of sound and storytelling.

Presented in partnership with Emporium Presents.

Latinas Divinas

Sept. 13, 2025

The "Latina Divinas II" concert celebrates the global impact of Latina artists from the Americas, honoring legends like Celia Cruz, Selena Quintanilla-Perez, Gloria Estefan, Lila Downs, Rocío Dúrcal, Lola Beltrán, Jenni Rivera, and Chavela Vargas. Their music will be brought to life by Phoenix's own award-winning Latina singers and musicians, including Carmela Ramirez, Mary Hurtado, Olivia Calderon, Diana Lee, CeCe Ya, and Angie Gomez-Byrd, with guest performances by guitarist Donna Cruz and Mariachi Sonido de Mexico. Ballet Folklorico Quetzali, led by Vanessa Ramirez, adds a vibrant visual element through dance. This heartfelt performance is a proud cultural tribute from Phoenix's Latina artists, uniting audiences through the universal power of music and art.

The Swell Season

North American Tour

Sept. 16, 2025

The Swell Season returns with Forward, their first full-length album in 16 years, marking a new chapter for Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová. Known for their Academy Award-winning song Falling Slowly and the beloved film Once, the duo brings their signature

blend of heartfelt storytelling and intimate melodies to the stage once again. Forward captures their evolution, with both artists sharing the spotlight as equals, creating a sound both nostalgic and new. Joined by longtime band members, their live performance promises a moving journey through past classics and fresh, deeply personal songs.

Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

America

Sept. 20, 2025

Grammy-winning rock legends America bring their timeless sound and deep catalog of hits to the stage, including the iconic "A Horse With No Name." Their signature blend of melodic pop rock, folk-jazz, and Latin rhythms made songs like "Ventura Highway," "Sister Golden Hair," and "Tin Man" staples of 1970s radio. More than just hitmakers, America continues to captivate with their rich musical artistry and enduring appeal.

Twilight in Concert: The Film with Live Band

Oct. 2, 2025

Experience the legendary romance saga with this epic *film-to-concert* event – featuring the original movie accompanied by a sensational live band on stage and an enchanting candlelit atmosphere. **TWILIGHT IN CONCERT** offers a unique opportunity for fans to relive the story that started it all in a cinematic live experience like no other. An exceptional 12-piece ensemble of outstanding rock and orchestral musicians will take the stage to perform the beloved film score in perfect synchronization with the original movie, presented in its entirety on a full-size cinema screen. Be captivated by the magical atmosphere as over a thousand twinkling candles illuminate the grand stage, creating an ambiance that sets the stage for a truly romantic journey.

Classical Music Inside Out: Mark and Maggie O'Connor

Oct. 9, 2025

Experience an evening of masterful string playing with Mark and Maggie O'Connor. Mark O'Connor, a three-time GRAMMY® Award-winner has redefined string music by blending classical, jazz and bluegrass influences into a distinct American sound. Performing alongside his wife, violinist Maggie O'Connor, the duo brings to life Mark's original compositions and arrangements. From dazzling fiddle tunes to soul-stirring duets, their performance showcases the depth of American string traditions and the innovation of O'Connor's signature style.

The Princess Bride: An Inconceivable Evening with Cary Elwes

Oct. 11, 2025

Join Cary Elwes (Westley) for a behind-the-scenes look at life on and off the set of the classic film, *The Princess Bride*. After a screening of the iconic movie, Elwes will share personal stories from behind the making the movie and will engage in a moderated discussion revealing never before shared secrets and tales of inconceivable antics! Journey back to the lands of Florin and Guilder in an adventure filled with fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, miracles, and of course,

true love. Don't be a "Humperdinck", make haste to see The Princess Bride: An Inconceivable Evening with Cary Elwes for a night you will always "treasure". Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

National Geographic Live: A Pirate's Life
Lisa Briggs | Underwater Archaeologist
Oct. 15, 2025

Hunt for some of history's greatest treasures and the pirates who ruled the ocean with archaeologist Lisa Briggs. We go on assignment with her to the Mediterranean Sea to explore how pirating shaped the Roman Empire. We also meet the Pirate Queen of China and then head into the lab with Lisa to follow the most famous renegade, Blackbeard.

Christian McBride & Brad Mehldau
Oct. 19, 2025

Two of the most respected artists in contemporary jazz join forces in this duo. Hailed "one of modern jazz's most innovative musicians" by Glide Magazine, Christian McBride says, "Brad is justifiably revered as one of the greatest pianists of all time." Named "one of our greatest living pianists" by NPR, Brad Mehldau says, "Playing with Christian, especially in this configuration, is both joyful and daunting all at once. His level of sophistication and swing, of emotional power and grace, is unsurpassed - not in the least on what he has achieved on his instrument, but also as one of our strongest voices in the music more generally, at the top of his game."

Black Jacket Symphony Presents: AC/DC "Back in Black"
Oct. 21, 2025

Remember putting on an album and listening start to finish? Relive that with The Black Jacket Symphony as they recreate AC/DC's iconic Back in Black live—note for note, sound for sound—plus a full set of AC/DC's greatest hits. Over the past decade, they've performed 40+ classic rock albums for over a million fans across the U.S. With hand-picked musicians tailored to each album, no sonic detail is overlooked—it's rock and roll magic with a one-of-a-kind visual experience. Don't let the name fool you—these black-jacketed pros are known for stunning live recreations of rock's greatest albums. Back in Black is next. Black jackets for them, blue jeans for you. Presented in partnership with Emporium Presents.

MasterChef All-Stars Live!
Oct. 22, 2025

The Heat. The Competition. The Culinary Magic—LIVE! Get ready, food lovers! MasterChef All-Stars Live! is hitting the road, bringing your favorite chefs straight from the MasterChef kitchen to Mesa! This brand-new, high-energy stage show delivers the ultimate MasterChef experience—LIVE up close and personal! Witness epic head-to-head battles, thrilling challenges, and jaw-dropping culinary creations right before your eyes. Plus, hear from your favorite all stars on what it's like to cook in America's famous kitchen and toughest judges plus tips and tricks to take to your own home kitchen. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime night of food, fun, and fierce competition!

Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

Stardew Valley: Symphony of Seasons

Nov. 1, 2025

Experience Stardew Valley like never before with Symphony of Seasons! Curated by ConcernedApe, this concert features a 35-piece orchestra performing the game's most beloved music, accompanied by gameplay footage and exclusive visuals. Journey through the valley's most iconic locations, from Pelican Town to Ginger Island, as the seasons unfold in this unforgettable live experience.

Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

Penn & Teller

50th Anniversary Tour

Nov. 6, 2025

For over 50 years Penn & Teller have defied labels—and at times physics and good taste—by redefining the genre of magic and inventing their own very distinct niche in comedy. The duo has enjoyed sold out runs on Broadway, world tours, EMMY-winning TV specials and hundreds of outrageous appearances on everything from Fallon to Friends. They currently star in the hit series Penn & Teller: Fool Us! for The CW Network, on which up-and-comers and magic veterans try to fool Penn & Teller for a chance to star in the pair's hit Las Vegas stage show.

Sarah Millican

Late Bloomer

Nov. 8, 2025

When Sarah Millican was a child, she wouldn't say boo to a goose. Quiet at school, not many friends, no boobs 'til she was 16. Now? NOW she is loud, with good friends, a cracking rack and goose booing all over the shop. In Late Bloomer, Sarah's brand-new stand-up show, she explores how one became the other. Plus, lots of stuff about dinners and lady gardens. Come along and join Sarah on her second American tour, laugh at her, with her, beside her.

Presented in partnership with Live Nation.

Classical Music Inside Out: Pablo Sainz-Villegas | Solo Guitar

Nov. 13, 2025

Undoubtedly the most virtuoso guitarist of his generation, Pablo Sainz-Villegas has been acclaimed by the international press as the successor to Andrés Segovia and an ambassador of Spanish culture in the world. As an exclusive artist for SONY Classical, he has released three albums. His latest project, "The Blue Album," was released in June 2023.

Stanley Clarke N•4EVER Tour

Nov. 14, 2025

Four-time GRAMMY® Award-winner Stanley Clarke is thrilled to be back on the road with his exciting new band 4EVER. The Stanley Clarke N•4EVER Tour emphasizes Clarke's jazz fusion legacy. As expected, for this tour Clarke will be performing exciting

new and sophisticated arrangements. True to the evolution of jazz fusion, expect a powerful combination of jazz harmony and improvisation with rock, funk, R&B, hip-hop and electronic music influences.

The Fab Four: Tribute to the Beatles' Help! and the Hits

Nov. 14, 2025

If you want to experience the best Beatles tribute ever, you won't want to miss The Fab Four. The Emmy Award Winning Fab Four is elevated far above every other Beatles Tribute due to their precise attention to detail. With uncanny, note-for-note live renditions of Beatles' classics such as "Can't Buy Me Love," "Yesterday," "A Day In The Life," "Twist And Shout," "Here Comes The Sun," and "Hey Jude", the Fab Four will make you think you are watching the real thing.

Presented in partnership with Emporium Presents.

Richard Thomas in "Mark Twain Tonight"

Nov. 21, 2025

Emmy® Award-winning Actor Richard Thomas brings to life "the nation's one true comic genius" (The New York Times) in Mark Twain Tonight!, written and originally performed by Hal Holbrook. Join the millions who have cheered for the legendary one-man show, bursting with Twain's "uproariously funny" and "pungently wise" (Time Magazine) humor.

The Voice of Whitney

A Symphonic Celebration

Nov. 22, 2025

Experience Whitney Houston's astounding musical legacy like never before. This new concert tribute features original master recordings of Whitney's vocals set to new orchestrations of her biggest hits—including "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," "Higher Love" and "I Will Always Love You"—accompanied by home movies, film performances, and never-before-seen footage. Presented in collaboration with the Estate of Whitney Houston, Park Avenue Artists, and Primary Wave Music.

Stayin' Alive: One Night of the Bee Gees

Nov. 28, 2025

STAYIN' ALIVE offers to their audiences the songs and sights of a full Bee Gees playlist, singing blockbusters such as "How Deep Is Your Love", "You Should Be Dancing", "Stayin' Alive" and more. STAYIN' ALIVE is the largest and most definitive production of its kind, offering big screen video clips, photos and dazzling imagery. STAYIN' ALIVE is the quintessential tribute band to the Bee Gees, capturing the excitement of live performance and the tender subtleties of the human voice!

Presented in partnership with Emporium Presents.

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2025

featuring Jonathan Butler with Special Guests Haley Reinhart, Casey Abrams and Kayla Waters

Dec. 17, 2025

Dave Koz & Friends continue their annual holiday tradition at Mesa Arts Center! With nine GRAMMY® nominations, nine No. 1 albums on Billboard's Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart, and a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, saxophonist Dave Koz has maintained a commitment to celebrating the magic of the holiday season like few other artists of his genre or generation.

Gentri Christmas

Dec. 19, 2025

Celebrate 10 years of GENTRI Christmas with a spectacular anniversary show! Enjoy their soaring harmonies and masterful storytelling as they bring beloved classics like O Holy Night, Little Drummer Boy, and Silent Night to life, along with brand-new, never-before-heard music premiering exclusively on this tour. Experience the magic, music, and meaning of Christmas like never before!

Presented in partnership with MagicSpace Entertainment.

Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland

Dec. 20, 2025

This holiday season, experience the magic of cirque like never before with the all-new Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland! A thrilling blend of world-class circus artistry and your favorite holiday music, this spectacular production will transport you to a winter wonderland of awe and enchantment. With breathtaking acrobatics, soaring aerial performances and an all-new production for this year, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland delivers an unforgettable holiday experience for the whole family. Feel the holiday spirit come to life with heart-pounding feats and beloved seasonal melodies.

Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Riccardo Muti

Jan. 15, 2026

An Arizona exclusive! The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. The CSO's talented musicians are the driving force behind the ensemble's famous sound heard in memorable performances and on best-selling recordings. Internationally renowned conductor Riccardo Muti served as the orchestra's tenth music director and is now its Music Director Emeritus for Life. His leadership has been distinguished by the strength of his artistic partnership with the orchestra, command of repertoire of the past and present, including 17 world premieres, as well as 12 recordings together with 3 Grammy awards among them.

National Geographic Live: Chasing Monarchs

Jaime Rojo | Photographer

Jan. 21, 2026

Fifty years after the startling discovery that monarch butterflies spend winters in the forests of Mexico, photographer and National Geographic Explorer Jaime Rojo reveals this winged wonder of the insect world in new ways with never-before-seen visuals. Tag along with conservationists and citizen scientists who are helping this species avoid catastrophic threats, all through Jaime's beautiful photos and videos.

Joshua Kane | Borders of the Mind

Jan. 24, 2026

Can he read your mind? Discover your inner superhero in Mentalist Joshua Kane's amazing interactive performance. Entire audiences experience simultaneous telepathy, and witness dazzling feats of lie detection and what must be psychic phenomena. People of all ages leap to participate in the strange happenings at the Borders of the Mind. In 2022 the Psychic Entertainers Association awarded Joshua the Dunninger Memorial Award, their highest honor, "Awarded for Distinguished Professionalism in the Performance of Mentalism."

TINA – The Tina Turner Musical

Jan. 30–Feb. 1, 2026

An uplifting comeback story like no other, "TINA – The Tina Turner Musical" is the inspiring journey of a woman who broke barriers and became the Queen of Rock n' Roll. Set to the pulse-pounding soundtrack of her most beloved hits, this electrifying sensation will send you soaring to the rafters. Featuring her much loved songs, "TINA – The Tina Turner Musical" is written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Katori Hall.

Dirty Dancing Live

Feb. 7, 2026

Join us for Dirty Dancing in Concert, the classic film's first live film-to-concert experience. Enjoy the digitally remastered hit film like never before on a full-size cinema screen, with a live band and singers performing the film's iconic songs. With a soundtrack that marked a generation, Dirty Dancing in Concert promises to bring a thrilling new and unique experience to the 80s classic. Directly following the film, the band and singers will throw an encore party that will surely take you back to the time of your life as you sing and dance along to your favorite Dirty Dancing songs. Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

National Geographic Live: Life on the Move

Lucy Hawkes | Ecologist

Feb. 18, 2026

Every year, billions of animals migrate in search of food, water or a mate. Ecologist Lucy Hawkes has scoured the ocean, land and sky to investigate the astonishing stories of animal perseverance. Join her for a peek into landscapes where some of the planet's most notable animal athletes move and shake, and follow their beautiful, massive migrations across the globe.

The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra with special guest Nnenna Freelon

Feb. 24, 2026

The Count Basie Orchestra, a living testament to Basie's enduring influence, thrives under the direction of Scotty Barnhart. Its members, personally chosen by Basie himself, continue to uphold the orchestra's unparalleled reputation. The ensemble has garnered acclaim from every corner of the globe, conquering esteemed jazz polls and amassing an impressive collection of 18 Grammy Awards. Their performances have graced the presence of royalty, captivated audiences in movies and television shows, and graced the stages of major jazz festivals and renowned concert halls worldwide.

Classical Music Inside Out: Zuill Bailey and Friends

Feb. 26, 2026

Zuill Bailey, widely considered one of the premier cellists in the world, is a GRAMMY® Award-winning, internationally renowned soloist, recitalist, artistic director and teacher. His rare combination of celebrated artistry, technical wizardry and engaging personality has made him one of the most sought after and active cellists today.

Mariachi Herencia de México

con Leonardo Aguilar: La Nueva Generación

Feb. 27, 2026

¡Viva el mariachi! A new generation takes mariachi to whole new heights—two time Latin GRAMMY®-nominee Mariachi Herencia de México pushes the boundaries of traditional mariachi music. Simultaneously honoring the past, celebrating the present, and creating the future of mariachi music, Mariachi Herencia de México presents an electrifying and unforgettable night of Mexican music and culture.

New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players: The Mikado

March 3, 2026

Don't miss NYGASP's new and critically acclaimed production of The Mikado. The Mikado features all of your favorite G&S characters: Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner with his "little list" of potential victims, as well as the fearsome Katisha, the hilariously ridiculous Pooh-Bah, and the politely sadistic Mikado himself. A brief new prologue set in the offices of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company frames the classic work for today's audiences. Gilbert's lyrics and Sullivan's melodies - which have delighted comic opera lovers for over one hundred thirty-five years - are still as fresh as "the flowers that bloom in the spring."

Gabriel Rutledge: Don't Read the Comments

March 7, 2026

A past winner of both the Seattle International Comedy Competition and The Laughing Skull Comedy Festival in Atlanta, Gabriel has made numerous television appearances including Comedy Central's Live at Gotham, Nickelodeon's Nickmom Night Out, Laughs on FOX, and Inside Joke streaming on Amazon Prime Video. His Dry Bar Comedy special "A Third of the Room," as well as his YouTube special "Nectarine" have garnered millions of views online. He is also the author of the book "Happiness Isn't Funny: True Stories of a Road Comic."

Presented in partnership with Gate 52.

Lúnasa

March 17, 2026

The band's complex arrangements and unique sound reshaped the boundaries of traditional music and energized audiences the world over. Lúnasa's current lineup includes Trevor Hutchinson, bassist with The Waterboys; uilleann piper Cillian Vallely, who toured with Riverdance and recorded with Bruce Springsteen; Kevin Crawford, widely considered one of Ireland's greatest flute players; award winning fiddler Colin

Farrell and guitarist Ed Boyd, known on the UK folk circuit for his work with bands such as Flook, Kate Rusby, and Cara Dillon. Currently the band is touring their most recent cd, "Cas."

National Geographic Live: Discovering the Galapagos

Alex Hearn | Marine Ecologist

March 18, 2026

The Galapagos sparked our understanding of evolution and adaptation 175 years ago. Now, with marine ecologist and National Geographic Explorer Alex Hearn as an expert guide, discover the Galapagos anew as we go on assignment to explore the groundbreaking science that's happening with Darwin's finches, giant tortoises, marine iguanas and other remarkable wildlife on these islands.

Classical Music Inside Out: Olga Kern | Piano

March 19, 2026

Gold medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Olga Kern is celebrated for her electrifying stage presence and dazzling technique. She has performed with top orchestras worldwide, including the National Symphony and Czech Philharmonic, captivating audiences with her mastery of Rachmaninoff, Chopin and Tchaikovsky. Don't miss the chance to experience this extraordinary pianist in a performance of brilliance and passion.

Drum Tao

March 26, 2026

Hailed for its high-octane, visionary productions, Drum Tao electrifies Japanese artforms with eye-popping costumes, lavish set designs and bold, complex choreography. Acclaimed as one of the leading taiko drumming groups today, Drum Tao has performed for over 8 million worldwide, including on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. "What we want to do is more than just classical drumming," Drum Tao's lead performer Taro Harasaki says. "It's a very modern style and uses a lot of modern aspects in the show."

The Ravi Shankar Ensemble

March 27, 2026

Curated by Sukanya and Anoushka Shankar, the Ravi Shankar Ensemble is a multi-generational collective of world class musicians dedicated to the masterful compositions and enduring legacy of the uniquely legendary musician, Ravi Shankar. In their debut tour, the ensemble presents a special program featuring visual elements from the Ravi Shankar archives alongside a dynamic selection of Shankar's soul-stirring music.

National Geographic Live: Untangling the Mind

Steve Ramirez | Neuroscientist

April 8, 2026

Come explore on a cellular level — the foundations of thoughts, emotions and memories. The human brain is an electrical web of 100 trillion connections that has made everything possible, from campfires to lunar landers. Neuroscientist Steve Ramirez guides a journey through the most remarkable human organ to see what really makes us, us.

Classical Music Inside Out: Christian McBride and Edgar Meyer

April 9, 2026

Discover the extraordinary collaboration of jazz legend Christian McBride and genre-defying virtuoso Edgar Meyer in “But Who's Gonna Play the Melody?” This groundbreaking project showcases the stunning synergy of two bass masters blending jazz, classical and bluegrass influences. With innovative compositions and soulful interplay, McBride and Meyer push musical boundaries, crafting a unique, captivating experience. A must-listen for fans of creativity and excellence in music.

HADESTOWN

April 10–12, 2026

Welcome to “HADESTOWN,” where a song can change your fate. Winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards® including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy® Award for Best Musical Theater Album, “HADESTOWN” is a haunting and hopeful theatrical experience that grabs you and never lets go.

Black Violin

Full Circle Tour

April 16, 2026

Step into Black Violin’s Full Circle Tour, where GRAMMY®- nominated duo Wil Baptiste and Kev Marcus redefine the possibilities of music by merging classical depth with hip-hop’s pulse. This tour captures the essence of returning to where it all began—transformed and reimagined. Each powerful performance invites audiences to reflect on their own journeys, discovering that even as we evolve, we’re often drawn back to our roots with renewed purpose.

Riverdance 30 – The New Generation

May 8–10 | Times vary

Since “Riverdance” first emerged onto the world stage, its fusion of Irish and international dance and music has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. The Grammy® Award-winning music and the infectious energy of its mesmerizing choreography and breathtaking performances has left audiences in awe and established Riverdance as a global cultural sensation. To celebrate this incredible 30th year milestone, Riverdance will embark on a special anniversary tour, bringing its magic to audiences around the world.

To purchase tickets, please visit mesaartscenter.com or call the box office during business hours at 480-644-6500.

About Mesa Arts Center

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions and outstanding arts education classes. Mesa Arts Center’s mission is to create meaningful arts experiences in Mesa for everyone. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

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