

MEDIA KIT

KABARETT HAUS

PERTH CONCERT HALL, CITY OF LIGHTS
THURS 20 FEB – SAT 22 FEB
TICKETS: \$39 - \$89

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KABARETT HAUS

International siren and comedienne extraordinaire Meow Meow opens the Kabarett Haus accompanied by the full force of West Australian Symphony Orchestra. Join the spectacular queen of song for an unforgettable evening of exquisite music and much mayhem. Prepare for Piazzolla tangos, Weill, Brecht, Brel – even Radiohead – alongside original chansons by Meow Meow, Iain Grandage and Pink Martini's Thomas M Lauderdale as this post-post-modern diva showcases her glorious brand of subversive and sublime entertainment.

PERFORMANCES:

MEOW MEOW PANDEMONIUM (WITH THOMAS M LAUDERDALE) | THU 20 FEB
RUFUS WAINWRIGHT DOWN SOLO WAINWRIGHT | FRI 21 FEB
AMANDA PALMER, THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION | SAT 22 FEB

MEOW MEOW

Post-post-modern diva Meow Meow has hypnotised, inspired, and terrified audiences globally with unique creations and sell-out seasons from New York's Lincoln Center and Berlin's Bar Jeder Vernunft to London's West End and the Sydney Opera House.

Named One of the Top Performers of the Year by The New Yorker, the spectacular crowd-surfing tragi-comedienne has been called "Sensational" (TheTimes), "diva of the highest order" (New York Post), "The Queen of Chanson" by the Berliner Zeitung, and "a phenomenon" by the Australian press. Her award-winning solo works have been curated by David Bowie, Pina Bausch, and Mikhail Baryshnikov and numerous international arts festivals. As well as being a prolific music and theatre creator she specialises in the Weimar repertoire and French chanson, and recently appeared as Titania in Emma Rice's revolutionary A Midsummer Night's Dream season at Shakespeare's Globe.

She has just performed at the Berlin Philharmonic with Pink Martini, then Brighton Festival with "Souvenir" - a fantastical song cycle she has written with composers Jherek Bischoff and August Von Trapp on the Theatre Royal, then conjured a bespoke creation for Liverpool Culture's "Sgt Pepper at Fifty" involving the city's brass bands, a riot and a requiem in a graveyard and her Sleepless Beauties, incl designer Andrea Lauer. She appears in NY in July, joins Pink Martini in Madrid and Monte Carlo, then for the entirety of Edinburgh International Festival with her show "Meow Meow's Little Mermaid". December 4 is "Meow's Pandemonium" with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall, and Dec 20 - 31 Shakespeare's Globe presents "Apocalypse Meow: Crisis is Born".

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT

Praised by the New York Times for his "genuine originality," Rufus Wainwright has established

himself as one of the great male vocalists and songwriters of his generation. The New York-born, Montreal-raised singer songwriter has released seven studio albums, three DVDs, and three live albums, including the fantastic Grammy nominated *Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall*, which captured his celebrated Judy Garland tribute performance at the London Palladium in 2007, and the album *Release The Stars* which went Gold in Canada and the U.K.

Wainwright has received Juno Awards for Best Alternative Album in 1999 and 2002 for *Rufus Wainwright* and *Poses*, respectively, and nominations for his albums *Want Two* (2005) and *Release the Stars* (2008). He was nominated for Songwriter of the Year in 2008 for his *Release the Stars* album. He also composed the original music for choreographer Stephen Petronio's work *BLOOM* which has toured across the country.

Musically Rufus has collaborated with artists including Elton John, Burt Bacharach, David Byrne, Boy George, Joni Mitchell, Pet Shop Boys and producer Mark Ronson among many others. He collaborated with Robbie Williams on the title track of his album, *Swings Both Ways*, which was co-written with renowned musician and producer Guy Chambers and sung as a duet between Rufus and Robbie.

In addition to being a celebrated contemporary pop singer, Rufus has made a name for himself in the classical world. His much acclaimed first opera, titled *Prima Donna*, premiered at the Manchester International Festival in July 2009. The opera was subsequently performed in London at Sadler's Wells in April 2010, in Toronto at the Luminato Festival in June 2010 and at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House in February 2012. Now fully established as a composer of operas, Rufus has been commissioned by the Canadian Opera Company to write his second opera based on the story of the Roman Emperor Hadrian and Antinous. The new opera premiered in Toronto in October 2018 with international opera star Thomas Hampson creating the title role and Finnish soprano Karita Mattila singing the role of Plotina. "Hadrian" has been nominated in the best World Premiere category of the International Opera Awards.

Rufus has also distinguished himself by playing original orchestrated pop songs and pieces from an extensive classical repertoire with well-respected opera singers such as Sondra Radvanovsky, Anna Prohaska, or Angelika Kirchschrager and orchestras around the world such as the Chicago Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Residentie Orchestra, Orchestre National de Ile de France, the orchestras of the Teatro Real and Teatro Colon among others. Wainwright was commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony to compose "Five Shakespeare Sonnets," a five-movement suite that sets the texts from selected Shakespearian "Sonnets" to orchestra and voice. "Five Shakespeare Sonnets" premiered in the US in 2010 and debuted in the UK in 2012 with the sixty-piece BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Rory MacDonald. Rufus was asked by famed director Robert Wilson to compose music for Shakespeare Sonnet that was staged at the Berliner Ensemble in 2009.

Other achievements include the 2012 world premiere of *Sing Me The Songs That Say I Love You: A Concert for Kate McGarrigle*, the feature length music documentary starring Rufus, Martha Wainwright and their family and directed by Lian Lunson. The film captures the May 2011 tribute concert honoring Rufus' late mother, the great singer songwriter Kate McGarrigle. Nonesuch Records released a record, *Sing Me The Songs That Say I Love You: Celebrating the Works of Kate McGarrigle* which included songs from the movie as well as selections from the three tribute concerts for Kate given in London, New York and Toronto and featuring performances by Rufus, Martha, Anna McGarrigle, Emmylou Harris, Emmylou Harris, Richard and Linda Thompson and many others. The movie and the record are both available on iTunes and Amazon. Rufus and his sister are

spearheading the Kate McGarrigle Fund for Sarcoma Research at Stand Up 2 Cancer and have raised hundreds of thousands dollars for this cause through concerts and appearances worldwide.

In 2013 he performed at the Kennedy Center Awards honoring the work of Billy Joel. He performed at the 90th birthday concert for Tony Bennett at Radio City Music Hall and is featured on the Grammy winning album release of that show. In 2013 and 2018 he performed at the 70th and 75th birthday concerts respectively for Joni Mitchell. The 2018 concerts at the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion of LA's Music Center are released as an album with Universal Music Group and the film "The Music Center Presents Joni 75 – a Birthday Celebration" has been presented as a limited theatrical release and later on PBS. In 2016 he reprised his famous live concerts of "Rufus does Judy" at the Hearn Generating Station for Toronto's Luminato Festival and two nights at Carnegie Hall.

He plays regularly at the major music festivals around the world including the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury, Coachella, Roskilde, and has played most major concert halls around the world from the Philharmonie de Paris, to Royal Albert Hall in London, Radio City Music Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Olympia in Paris, Sydney Opera House and many more. He has toured extensively in North America, South and Central America, Asia, Australia, Russia, the Middle East and Europe.

In 2014, Universal Records released *Vibrate: The Best of Rufus Wainwright*, a new career-spanning collection that features eighteen standout songs defining one of music's most innovative talents. Included in the collection are three brand new recordings, "Me and Liza", "Chic and Pointless" and "WWIII." Also released on CD and Blu-ray is *Rufus Wainwright: Live from the Artists Den* which captures Rufus' inspired performance at New York City's Church of the Ascension in 2012.

Rufus completed his PledgeMusic campaign to record *Prima Donna: The Album*, a studio recording of his first opera with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He describes, "It is vitally important to me that *Prima Donna* be properly recorded and released so that I can tour a concert version of it in the coming year, and I have decided to do this with the help of both PledgeMusic and the incredible BBC Symphony Orchestra which in turn requires your generous support." Wainwright chose the PledgeMusic direct-to-fan platform so his supporters can partake in the album-making process through behind the scenes updates and exclusive views into the creative journey. Deutsche Grammophon release of a double CD recording of *Prima Donna* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra is now available everywhere.

The initial success of Wainwright's opera, *Prima Donna*, which premiered in 2009 at the Manchester International Festival, led him to create an artistic concert adaptation to share with the rest of the world.

The opera's central character, a retired Diva struggling to make her return to the stage and regain her former years of greatness, was inspired by BBC Lord Harewood interviews with Maria Callas in her later years.

For the concert adaptation, Wainwright reconfigured the music he composed for the Opera, and scheduled the tour to coincide with the release of the studio recording of the complete opera with Deutsche Grammophon. Wainwright conceived of a film directed by Italian visual artist Francesco Vezzoli featuring Cindy Sherman to accompany the live music.

Prima Donna: A Symphonic Visual Concert premiered at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus at the Athens Festival in Greece on September 15th, 2015. *Prima Donna: A Symphonic Visual Concert* was also

performed at the Gulbenkian in Lisbon, Portugal on November 27th & 28th, 2015, Buenos Aires at Teatro Colon on February 19th & 20th, 2016 and the Hong Kong Arts Festival on March 1st, 2016 and the Montreal Jazz Festival.

Rufus celebrated the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death with the release of his latest album *Take All My Loves: 9 Shakespeare Sonnets* on Deutsche Grammophon worldwide April 22nd, 2016. Performers on the record include Rufus' sister Martha Wainwright, vocalist Florence Welch of Florence + the Machine, Austrian soprano Anna Prohaska; multiple Grammy-nominated composer and producer Marius de Vries; Sián Phillips, Peter Eyre who provides the introduction, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra; British actress Helena Bonham Carter, Americans Carrie Fisher and William Shatner, and the 92-year-old Inge Keller – one of the great names of German theatre.

He is working on a new studio pop album with LA based producer Mitchell Froom to be released in the spring of 2020. The album's songs and production harken back to his explosive debut album that celebrates the sound and musical heritage of Los Angeles. In the fall of 2018 Wainwright embarked on a world wide tour titled "All these Poses" celebrating the 20th anniversary of his eponymous debut album and his second album "Poses". He is working on a number of film and musical projects.

THOMAS M. LAUDERDALE

Raised on a plant nursery in rural Indiana, Pink Martini bandleader Thomas M. Lauderdale began piano lessons at age six with Patricia Garrison. When his family moved to Portland in 1982, he began studying with Sylvia Killman, who to this day continues to serve as his coach and mentor. He has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras and ensembles, including the Oregon Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Chamber Music Northwest and Oregon Ballet Theatre (where he collaborated with choreographer James Canfield and visual artists Storm Tharp and Malia Jensen on a ballet based on Felix Salten's *Bambi*, written in 1923).

In 2008, he played Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F with the Oregon Symphony under the direction of Christoph Campestrini. Lauderdale returned as soloist with the Oregon Symphony in multiple concerts in 2011, and again in 2015, under the direction of Carlos Kalmar. In 2017, he and his partner Hunter Noack created and performed a dazzling, rhapsodic two-piano arrangement of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with choreographer Nicolo Fonte for Oregon Ballet Theatre.

Active in Oregon politics since a student at U.S. Grant High School (where he was student body president), Thomas served under Portland Mayor Bud Clark and Oregon governor Neil Goldschmidt. In 1991, he worked under Portland City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury on the drafting and passage of the city's civil rights ordinance. He graduated with honors from Harvard with a degree in History and Literature in 1992. He spent most of his collegiate years, however, in cocktail dresses, taking on the role of "cruise director" ... throwing waltzes with live orchestras and ice sculptures, disco masquerades with gigantic pineapples on wheels, midnight swimming parties, and operating a Tuesday night coffeehouse called Café Mardi.

Instead of running for political office, Lauderdale founded Pink Martini in 1994 to play political fundraisers for progressive causes such as civil rights, the environment, affordable housing and public broadcasting. In addition to his work with Pink Martini, Lauderdale is currently working on three different recording projects with international superstar and singing sensation Meow Meow, the surf band Satan's Pilgrims and singer/civil rights leader Kathleen Saadat.

In Spring 2008, Lauderdale completed his first film score for Chiara Clemente's documentary *Our City Dreams*, a portrait of five New York City-based women artists of different generations. In 2016, Lauderdale created the score and three featured songs for the Belgian film *Souvenir*, starring the legendary French actress Isabelle Huppert.

Lauderdale currently serves on the boards of the Oregon Symphony, Pioneer Courthouse Square, the Oregon Historical Society, Confluence Project with Maya Lin and the Derek Rieth Foundation. He lives with his partner Hunter Noack in downtown Portland, Oregon.

AMANDA PALMER

Amanda Palmer is a singer, songwriter, playwright, pianist, author, director, blogger and ukulele enthusiast who simultaneously embraces and explodes traditional frameworks of music, theatre, and art. She first came to prominence as one half of the Boston-based punk cabaret duo *The Dresden Dolls*, earning global applause for their inventive songcraft and wide-ranging theatricality.

Her solo career has proven equally brave and boundless, featuring such groundbreaking works as the fan-funded *Theatre Is Evil*, which made a top 10 debut on the SoundScan/Billboard 200 upon its release in 2012 and remains the top-funded original music project on Kickstarter.

In 2013 she presented "The Art of Asking" at the annual TED conference, which has since been viewed over 20 million times worldwide. The following year saw Palmer expand her philosophy into the New York Times best-selling memoir and manual, *The Art of Asking: How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Let People Help*.

Since 2015 Palmer has used the patronage subscription crowdfunding platform Patreon to fund the creation of her artwork.

This has enabled her to collaborate with artists all over the world with over 14,000 patrons supporting her creations each month. Palmer released her new solo piano album and accompanying book of photographs and essays, *There Will Be No Intermission*, on March 8, 2019, followed by a global tour. Recorded in late 2018 with grammy-winning *Theatre Is Evil* producer/engineer John Congleton at the helm, the album is a masterwork that includes life, death, abortion, and miscarriage among its tentpole themes.

Amanda Palmer cannot be defined and yet she is the very definition of an artist who is supremely gifted in a number of disciplines: Singer. Songwriter. Filmmaker. Director. Playwright. Author. Pianist. Ukulele-enthusiast. Since first stepping out onto the world stage as a solo recording artist over a decade ago with *WHO KILLED AMANDA PALMER* in 2008, she has simultaneously embraced and exploded traditional frameworks of music, art and theatre. Her work is marked by a starkly bold autonomy, a musical approach that defies categorization, and an incredibly profound alliance with her global network of fans which has grown and strengthened over nearly two decades of in-person and online connection.

Born in New York City and raised mostly in Lexington, Massachusetts, Palmer studied experimental music at Wesleyan University where she graduated in 1998 with a degree in German Studies. After dropping out of a graduate program at Heidelberg University, her passion for street theatre saw her return to Cambridge, MA to become *The Eight Foot Bride*, where she busked as a living statue in full wedding regalia. In her early twenties she also worked as a stripper, art-party curator, barista, naming-and-branding consultant for dot-com companies, and dominatrix...all while honing her

songwriting craft. She wrote and directed several plays and street happenings, but her deeper commitment to music led her to unite with drummer/multi-instrumentalist Brian Viglione as The Dresden Dolls in 2000.

Blending performance art with an array of sonic and lyrical influences to create a uniquely cathartic, often confrontational sound and vision all their own, Palmer and Viglione reaped kudos for their inventive punk cabaret and darkly original song craft. Their emotionally electric and raucous live shows, plus two acclaimed studio albums – 2003's self-titled debut and 2006's YES, VIRGINIA... – earned critical praise, hailing The Dresden Dolls' distinctive work as both deeply unsettling yet remarkably accessible. The duo went on an indefinite hiatus in 2008 but reconvene every few years to play sold-out shows to thousands of die-hard fans across the globe, most recently selling over 7,000 tickets within a few days of announcing an appearance in London to celebrate Halloween in 2018.

Palmer's solo career has since been aesthetically boundless and undeniably ambitious. In 2007, Palmer conjoined with long-time friend and collaborator, Seattle-based musician Jason Webley, to form a fictional pair of singer-songwriter twins called Evelyn Evelyn, releasing an eponymous album and graphic novel followed by a one-of-a-kind world tour later in 2010. 2008's groundbreaking release WHO KILLED AMANDA PALMER saw Palmer working with fellow piano-banger and producer Ben Folds to expand the emotional range and musical parameters of her craft, prompting The Guardian to proclaim her "a songwriter who, at her best, can split the difference between PJ Harvey, Randy Newman, Kurt Weill, and Dorothy Parker." Palmer embarked on her first solo tour in 2008, which included song-inspired theatrical performances at every show by a troupe of Australian-based performance artists – The Danger Ensemble – who work in the Butoh tradition. She made her debut fronting an orchestra in a collaboration with the world renowned Boston Pops Orchestra in 2008, and has since worked with several symphony orchestras around the globe, notably with the Colorado Symphony for a historic performance at Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

Palmer continued to juggle touring solo worldwide with her theatrical pursuits via collaborations with the American Repertory Theater, including an original workshop piece in 2007 titled "The Onion Cellar", which she based on Günter Grass's post-war masterpiece The Tin Drum, and a memorable, sold-out 2010 revival of Cabaret in which she starred as a gender-bent Emcee to great acclaim for over 40 performances. She also returned to her roots in 2009 to work with her beloved Lexington High School theater director and mentor, Steven Bogart, on an original play created, written and performed by Palmer and members of the Lexington High School drama department. Titled With The Needle That Sings In Her Heart, the two-hour play, which ran for only three performances, was inspired by The Diary of Anne Frank and the album In The Aeroplane Over The Sea by her fellow cult heroes Neutral Milk Hotel.

Palmer married writer Neil Gaiman in 2011. The two have collaborated on a number of unique creative projects in the years since, most notably their son Anthony, born in 2015 and named in honor of Palmer's dear friend who had recently lost a long battle with leukemia. The intimate interplay between artist and audience has been a key element of Palmer's work from the beginning of her career. An early advocate of crowd-sourcing, she immediately saw its potential for celebrating audience over industry and chose to fund her second solo album via the nascent Kickstarter platform in 2012. Palmer's efforts eclipsed even her own projections, with nearly 25,000 loyal fans helping to make 2012's THEATRE IS EVIL the first-ever music crowdfunding project to raise over \$1 million in pre-orders. Credited to Amanda Palmer & The Grand Theft Orchestra, THEATRE IS EVIL was a fully-produced, bombastic and deeply personal New Wave-influenced record. It proved

another artistic triumph for Palmer, with Rolling Stone declaring it “one of the year’s best rock records.” Moreover, THEATRE IS EVIL made a top 10 debut on the SoundScan/Billboard 200 chart upon its release and remains the all-time top-funded original music project on Kickstarter to this day.

In 2013, Palmer appeared at the annual TED conference to discuss her revolutionary model of fan support and artistic community. Her stirring presentation – entitled “The Art of Asking” – struck a wide-ranging global chord, resulting in worldwide views currently in excess of 20 million across platforms. The following year saw Palmer expand her fan-funding philosophy of vulnerability and authentic connection into the New York Times bestseller, *The Art of Asking: How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Let People Help*. The audio version of *The Art of Asking*, narrated and sung by Palmer herself, was released in 2018 by Audible and soared once again to the bestseller list.

In 2015, Palmer brought her community to Patreon to push the parameters of crowd-power even further with the creation of a subscription-based membership platform to back her free-flowing creative output. Over 14,000 people now help fund Palmer’s ceaseless productivity, with a growing list of patron-supported “Things” – an average of two each month – which include demo songs, entire concept albums, original films and animations, performance projects, webcasts, and more. Palmer’s patron-supported work has been miraculously diverse and marked by a deep intimacy with her vast family of fans as she shares her life, artistic process and behind-the-scenes process work. Collaborations with hundreds of filmmakers, photographers, designers, painters, theater directors and a wide cast of other musicians have happened at a dizzying pace.

Palmer has co-created songs and projects with musicians as diverse as St. Vincent, Cyndi Lauper, The Flaming Lips and Weird Al Yankovic; not to mention the irrefutably super supergroup 8in8 (who created an entire album in one day), comprised of Palmer, Gaiman, Ben Folds, and OK Go’s Damian Kulash.

Palmer is also the rare singer/songwriter who can also double as a gifted interpreter of others’ work, putting her distinct touch to songs from artists spanning Brecht to Bat For Lashes. In 2016, Palmer teamed with Jherek Bischoff for two patron-supported memorials, *STRUNG OUT IN HEAVEN: A BOWIE STRING QUARTET TRIBUTE* and a remarkable string quartet rendition of Prince’s “Purple Rain.” The Bowie arrangements were invited to be performed at the BBC Proms tribute to David Bowie at Royal Albert Hall, on the TED MainStage, and at Carnegie Hall in New York City where Bischoff and Palmer were joined by Anna Calvi and backed by the legendary Kronos Quartet.

Through the years, Palmer has also published a widely-read blog in which her readers encounter and discuss topics ranging from feminism, motherhood, grief, love and identity. She has also contributed multiple essays to *The Guardian*, *The Huffington Post* and she has guest-edited *The New Statesman*. Since 2013, Palmer has been an affiliate at Harvard University’s Berkman-Klein Center for Internet and Society. She is currently an Artist-at-Large at her Alma Mater, Wesleyan University, where she teamed up recently with long-time film collaborator Michael Pope to co-teach a class in creativity and filmmaking.

Palmer and her father, Jack, released a passion-project album in 2016 called *YOU GOT ME SINGING* which featured 12 cover songs from the folk, country and blues traditions, including versions of songs by Leonard Cohen, Sinéad O’Connor, John Grant and Kimya Dawson. This was the first fully-funded release made possible by her Patreon supporters. In 2017, Palmer released *I CAN SPIN A RAINBOW* with one of her teenage heroes, Edward Ka-Spel of The Legendary Pink Dots, of which

Drowned In Sound said, “This collaboration, not at all random but in fact 25 years in the making, lives up to every terrifying, dark, colourful, excellent thing it could possibly be.”

With the support of her patrons, Palmer’s music took a more overtly political turn in the past few years as her releases helped to raise funds for a variety of urgent causes. Most recently, Palmer collaborated with Welsh singer/writer Jasmine Power for a searingly powerful duet that grew into a groundbreaking short film called Mr. Weinstein Will See You Now. Entirely crowd-funded through her Patreon and directed/choreographed by powerhouse director Noemie Lafrance, the short film featured the work of over sixty local New York women of all ages, sizes and colors on both sides of the camera. Along with New York Times bestselling author, neurologist David Eagleman, she also just launched a new podcast series called The Art of Asking Everything.

Amanda Palmer’s new solo piano album, THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION, is Palmer’s most ambitiously personal and intimate song-collection to date. Returning to work on a grand piano in a stripped-down studio setting with Grammy-winning THEATRE IS EVIL producer John Congleton, Palmer’s new songs cover the themes of motherhood, abortion, miscarriage and death, delivering a present and prescient cri de cœur from this one-of-a-kind Artist, Storyteller and Activist. The album’s release, along with a 100-page book of photography and essays penned by Palmer, will be followed by a world tour that starts on March 8, 2019.

Palmer currently lives with her family in Woodstock, New York.

MEOW MEOW

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