



SARAH HAGEN IS SET TO STUN WHISTLER WITH TWO PERFORMANCES IN MARCH AT THE MAURY YOUNG ARTS CENTRE

Sarah will collaborate with Søren Bebe on March 3 and Rebecca Wenham on March 30.

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WHISTLER, BC – For the first of her two shows at the Maury Young Arts Centre (formerly Millennium Place), classical Canadian pianist Sarah Hagen will be accompanied by jazz pianist Søren Bebe on March 3, to perform an exciting exploration of the connection between jazz and classical music. For the second performance on March 30th, Sarah is set to collaborate with cellist Rebecca Wenham. Sarah was originally supposed to be joined by cellist Ariel Barnes for this performance, but due to unforeseen circumstance this has changed. These two shows form part of Whistler Arts Council's Performance Series.

Sarah Hagen was first prize winner in the 2013 Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition and thrilled audiences with a solo performance at New York City's Carnegie Hall in May, 2013. Her debut solo album, *Glass House Dancing*, was nominated for classical recording of the year at the 2009 Western Canadian Music Awards and she was recently nominated by the BC Touring Council as 2015 Artist of the Year.

Sarah's youthful exuberance makes classical music approachable and fun. "I was recently asked what inspires me," says Sarah, "this is both an impossible question and a no-brainer," she adds, explaining, "everything inspires me: my astounding colleagues, strange dreams after a midnight feast with friends, three words strung together in a novel, a ridiculous joke, baskets of poignant memories." When asked to describe herself in under 10 words, she jokes, "well... to be honest, I take my whiskey neat."

The Charlottetown Guardian says, "the level of passion that Sarah possesses when it comes to experiencing, interpreting and expressing art is something quite extraordinary." Sarah curates, hosts and performs in numerous concert series in BC and Alberta, sharing the stage with artists from around the world.

Sarah will be accompanied by fellow pianist Søren Bebe on Thursday, March 3. The two musicians met in Copenhagen last summer to piece together Bach, Chopin, Danish folksong and Søren's improvisations into a program of solo and duet performances. In this upcoming Performance Series show Sarah and Søren will blend together elements of jazz and classical music to create what they refer to as 'jazsical piano', a refreshing and contemporary take on two classic genres.

For her second performance on Wednesday, March 30, Sarah will collaborate with cellist Rebecca Wenham. Rebecca's performances have been described as "silken" and "highly refined" by the Globe and Mail, and have received praise for "extraordinary commitment and maturity" by La Gazette. Award-winning, Rebecca's animated playing style has captivated audiences worldwide, making her a perfect accompanist to highly-acclaimed Hagen.

Join us early before both shows to enjoy wine and complimentary cheese in The Gallery. Tickets to these all ages events are \$25 or \$23 for WAC members. Purchase your tickets now from the Maury Young Arts Centre box office or at artswhistler.com.

EVENT SCHEDULE

6.30pm – 7.15pm Wine and complimentary cheese in The Gallery

7.30pm Sarah Hagen will perform in The Theatre with Søren Bebe on Thursday, March 3, 2016 and later with Rebecca Wenham on Wednesday, March 30, 2016

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ABOUT THE WHISTLER ARTS COUNCIL

The Whistler Arts Council has been the premier arts advocacy organization in Whistler since 1982, supporting local artists and organizations to develop arts programs, and promoting Whistler as a unique destination for cultural tourism. A respected community stakeholder and non-profit organization, the Whistler Arts Council leverages strategic government and business partnerships to increase community engagement and opportunities through year-round festivals, events, and arts programs. Annual signature events include ArtWalk, Whistler Children's Festival, Bizarre Bazaar, Whistler Art Workshops, Whistler Street Entertainment, and the Performance Series.

The Whistler Arts Council operates Maury Young Arts Centre which is open daily with free admission. The Arts Centre features The Gallery, which hosts rotating exhibitions by local artists and The Gift Shop, showcasing handmade creations by local artisans. It also features a 238-seat theatre, a soundproof boardroom and other meeting spaces, and the Youth Centre. The Arts Centre truly is Whistler's hub for arts and culture, right in the heart of Whistler Village.

MEDIA NOTES

The Whistler Arts Council is pleased to provide high-resolution images for use by media publications. Please credit the attached image to the Sarah Hagen collection.