

2021/22



UNCOVERED

THE MUSIC OF DOLLY PARTON

MUSIC SUPERVISION BY **REZA JACOBS**

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2
KOERNER HALL, 273 BLOOR STREET WEST

NOVEMBER 24 – DECEMBER 11
STREAMING DIGITALLY

PRODUCED BY

**THE MUSICAL
STAGE CO.**

#UNCOVERED


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WELCOME TO UNCOVERED: THE MUSIC OF DOLLY PARTON

Welcome back to UNCOVERED!

At The Musical Stage Company, the Fall has always been synonymous with 'UNCOVERED season'. Thus, it is with tremendous joy, that we welcome you back to Koerner Hall for the 15th edition of our annual signature concert.

In thinking about what the focus of UNCOVERED would be as it returns to a live format, Dolly Parton emerged as the natural fit; her iconic songs are filled with joy, hope and love. She has changed the world as a pioneering feminist, a rags-to-riches business phenomenon, and an LGBTQ+ ally. Dolly exemplifies generosity, kindness & love – qualities that we need in our heroes, now more than ever.

A year of isolation has given UNCOVERED even greater momentum, as we examine iconic pop songs and breathe new life into them in a way that makes them resonate anew for the current moment. Last year's digital UNCOVERED: NOTES FROM THE HEART reached more people than ever before and introduced the glorious arrangements of Reza Jacobs and Canadian artists to international audiences.

This year we are delighted to be back at the stunning Koerner Hall, sharing UNCOVERED: THE MUSIC OF DOLLY PARTON with a live audience, while also capturing the experience for a digital release. This will again enable us to share the talent and originality of what you see tonight, with people across the globe. Starting in November, we invite you to relive tonight's experience online and to share the gift of UNCOVERED with friends who may not be able to join in-person.

While this year's audience experience looks different from years past, we know that the power of music and great performances will transcend all of the strangeness of the current moment, and remind us all, how it's better with music.

Enjoy the show!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Marcus".

MITCHELL MARCUS (HE/HIM)
THE ROGER & KEVIN GARLAND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Hogg".

RAY HOGG (HE/HIM)
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we reflect on the opportunity to return to making music together in Tkaronto, we want to recognize the original caretakers of this land - both recorded and unrecorded - who have been gathering and making music on this land for generations.

UNCOVERED is being performed & filmed in the “Dish With One Spoon Territory.” The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit, and Haudenosaunee Confederacy that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, colonial settlers, and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.

May the reunion of our voices through song remind us of our urgent responsibility to repair the history of injustice and damage that has been done, and continues to be inflicted upon Turtle Island (colonially Canada’s Indigenous peoples, by its settlers. For more information on how you can be a part of building a more equitable future for Turtle Island’s Indigenous peoples, visit The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada by [clicking here](#).

SPECIAL THANKS

Mary Spyraakis
Patrick Stewart

Brianna Gorsline
Bad Hats Theatre

Benjamin Kersey
David Bell

An additional thank you to our digital **UNCOVERED** team for their work to come:

Patric McGroarty
(Sound Engineer)
Justin Gray
(Sound Mix/Mastering)

Fred Yurichuk,
Benjamin Rouse,
Ingrid Johanson,
(Videographers)

Eva Foote
(Live Opening Act)
Anika Johnson
(Digital Experience Host)

The Musical Stage Company presents

UNCOVERED

THE MUSIC OF DOLLY PARTON

LIVE AT KOERNER HALL

STARRING

JULLY BLACK†

BEAU DIXON

SARA FARB†

HAILEY GILLIS

KELLY HOLIFF

ANDREW PENNER

ORCHESTRA

Pianist & Conductor
ADAM SAKIYAMA

Bass
JUSTIN GRAY

Drums & Percussion
JAMIE DRAKE

Violin
MIRANDA MULHOLLAND

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Music
Supervision
REZA JACOBS

Concept &
Staging
FIONA SAUDER

Music Direction &
Piano/Conducting
ADAM SAKIYAMA

Stage
Management
LISA HUMBER

COVID-19 & Production
Coordination
ROBYNNE HARDER

Apprentice
Stage Management
JOEY LAU

Copyist Work
JONATHAN
CORKAL-ASTORGA

Lighting
Design
MATT BIRNBAUM

Quotes
Curation
JASON SPETTER

ORCHESTRATIONS & ARRANGEMENTS BY REZA JACOBS AND CREATED COLLABORATIVELY WITH
INPUT FROM ALL ARTISTS INVOLVED IN UNCOVERED.

† The 2021-22 Mark & Cherie Daitchman Featured Performers

* The Fine Furneaux Director of Music



The Musical Stage Company engages, under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement, actors and stage managers who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).



The musicians engaged in this production are members of the Toronto Musicians' Association (TMA) Local 149 of the Canadian Federation of Musicians and American Federation of Musicians.



The Musical Stage Company is a member of the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).

SONGS FEATURED IN UNCOVERED

SONGS ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER & SUBJECT TO CHANGE

9 to 5

Written by Dolly Parton
SARA FARB, HAILEY GILLIS, KELLY HOLIFF

Coat of Many Colors

Written by Dolly Parton
SARA FARB

Here I Am

Written by Dolly Parton
KELLY HOLIFF

Here You Come Again

Written by Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil
HAILEY GILLIS

Islands In The Stream

Written by The Bee Gees
JULLY BLACK, BEAU DIXON, SARA FARB,
ANDREW PENNER

I Will Always Love You

Written by Dolly Parton
JULLY BLACK

Jolene

Written by Dolly Parton
JULLY BLACK

Joshua

Written by Dolly Parton
BEAU DIXON, ANDREW PENNER

Light Of A Clear Blue Morning

Written by Dolly Parton
FULL CAST

Mule Skinner Blues

Written by Jimmie Rodgers & George Vaughan
ANDREW PENNER

Tennessee Mountain Home

Written by Dolly Parton
FULL CAST

Two Doors Down

Written by Dolly Parton
BEAU DIXON

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- The text featured in **UNCOVERED: THE MUSIC OF DOLLY PARTON** has been curated from actual quotes spoken by Dolly Parton.
- Background vocals co-created and performed by Sara Farb, Hailey Gillis, & Kelly Holiff.



Running time is approximately 75 minutes.



Any video/audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

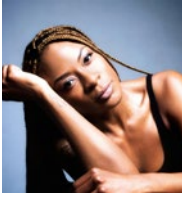


Reminder to keep your mask on at all times, stay in your assigned seating section, and wait for an usher before leaving the venue



Cell phones and other electronic devices are distracting for actors and audience members, please turn them off during the show.

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



JULY BLACK (she/her) Performer

The Mark & Cherie
Daitchman Featured
Performer

For The Musical

Stage Company: **CAROLINE OR CHANGE** (2020); 2 seasons of **UNCOVERED**.

July Black is 'Canada's Queen of R&B/ Soul' and a true Canadian icon. She has been named as one of 'The 25 Greatest Canadian Singers Ever' (CBC Music) & is a platinum-selling recording artist & performer. July is also a Juno Award, Gemini Award, Toronto Theatre Critics Award & Dora Mavor Moore Award recipient, and a television & musical stage actress of resolute faith & conviction.



BEAU DIXON (he/him) Performer

For The Musical
Stage Company:
PORCHSIDE SONGS

(2020); **PASSING STRANGE** (Obsidian Theatre co-production); **CAROLINE, OR CHANGE** (2012).

Beau is a self-taught, multi award-winning Actor, Composer, Playwright, Sound Designer & Music Director. Selected theatre credits: **GUYS 'N' DOLLS**, **HMS PINAFORE** (Stratford Festival); **GHOST QUARTET** (Crow's Theatre); **THE COLOR PURPLE** (Neptune Theatre); **MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM** (Soulpepper Theatre). Selected writing credits: **BLOOM: A ROCK 'N' ROLL FABLE** (4th Line Theatre); **BENEATH**

SPRINGHILL (Arts Club/ Festival Players). Selected musical direction; **PIPPIN** (Sheridan College); **FREEDOM CABARET** (Stratford Festival). Nominations & awards: Two Dora Mavor Moore Awards, Two Toronto Critics Awards, Calgary Critics Award, Betty Mitchell nomination & a Dora Mavor Moore nomination. His music is available on iTunes.

www.beaudixon.com



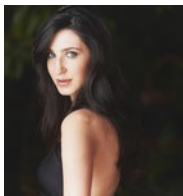
SARA FARB (she/her) Performer

The Mark & Cherie
Daitchman Featured
Performer

For The Musical

Stage Company: **PORCHSIDE SONGS** (2021); 12 seasons of **UNCOVERED**; Medium Allison in **FUN HOME** (Mirvish co-production - Dora nomination & TTCA winner); **REFRAMED**; **EDGES**; **KELLY v. KELLY**.

Sara Farb is known for Delphi in **HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD** on Broadway; 5 seasons at Stratford (Juliet, Anne Frank, Cordelia, many others); Brigid in **THE HUMANS** (Canadian premiere at Citadel/Canadian Stage); productions at Soulpepper, Theatre Calgary, Tarragon, Theatre Passe Muraille, Segal Centre, YPT, & others. Sara & Britta Johnson's original musical, **KELLY v. KELLY**, was postponed due to Covid but will hopefully see a full production soon.



HAILEY GILLIS

(she/her)
Performer

For The Musical
Stage Company:
PORCHSIDE SONGS

(2020); 2 seasons of **UNCOVERED**;
ONEGIN (with National Arts Centre &
The Arts Club).

Recent Credits: **GHOST QUARTET**
(Crow's Theatre), **ROSE, STEINBECK**
THROUGH SONG (Soulpepper Theatre);
THE INVISIBLE (Catalyst/Vertigo
Theatre); **HEDDA GABLER** (Necessary
Angel/Canadian Stage); **ROMEO**
AND JULIET, THE MERRY WIVES OF
WINDSOR (Bard On The Beach); **SPOON**
RIVER, THE DYBBUK, MARAT/SADE,
BLOOD WEDDING, THE CRUCIBLE,
THE THIRST OF HEARTS, THE DEAD,
ALLIGATOR PIE, IDIOT'S DELIGHT
(Soulpepper Theatre); **JESUS CHRIST**
SUPERSTAR, ON THE ROAD WITH
DUTCH MASON (The Confederation
Center For The Arts); **GREASE, EVITA,**
THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL (Theatre
Aquarius). Other credits: **TRIPLE**
SENSATION Season 2, Top 6 (CBC),
Graduate (Soulpepper Academy), BA
Honours Degree (University Of Toronto),
Acting Diploma (Sheridan Institute Of
Technology).



KELLY HOLIFF

(she/her)
Performer

For The Musical
Stage Company:
9 seasons of
UNCOVERED.

Kelly is thrilled to be back with her The
Musical Stage Company family, for her
10th season of **UNCOVERED**! Kelly is a

theatre, cabaret & concert performer
based in Toronto. Highlights; touring
with Colm Wilkinson, opening for
President Bush & President Clinton;
voice for The Heart & Stroke
Foundation. Credits include: Brooke
in **NOISES OFF** (Mayfield); Captain
Hook in **PETER PAN** (Neptune
Theatre); Aldonza/Dulcinea in **MAN**
OF LA MANCHA; Ursula in **LITTLE**
MERMAID (Drayton); **TAKING THE A**
TRAIN (Soulpepper); **ANNE OF GREEN**
GABLES (Charlottetown); **KNISHES &**
GRITS (Harold Green Jewish Theatre).



ANDREW

PENNER
(he/him)
Performer

For The Musical
Stage Company:

PORCHSIDE SONGS (2020); 3 seasons
of **UNCOVERED**.

Andrew is an award-winning musician,
performer, composer, sound
designer, music director & producer.
He can be heard on over 50 albums
& has performed throughout North
America & Europe. Theatres include:
Soulpepper, Crows, Stratford Festival,
Canadian Stage, Obsidian, NAC,
Native Earth, The Theatre Centre.
FILM/TV work includes: **ONE WEEK**;
SMALL TOWN MURDER SONGS; **THIS**
BEAUTIFUL CITY; **EADWEARD**; **LOST**
GIRL. He is a founding member of
the award winning, multidisciplinary
collective, **Kitchenband** who create
stories inspired by obscure history &
geography. He is a member of the bands
Harrow Fair & Sunparlour Players.
Andrew lives in Toronto, Canada with his
wife & 3 sons.



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ORCHESTRA BIOGRAPHIES



**ADAM
SAKIYAMA**
(he/him)
Music Director,
Pianist, & Conductor

For The Musical Stage Company: **REPRINT; NEXT TO NORMAL; DR. SILVER: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE** (Mirvish Co-Production).

Adam Sakiyama is a music director & composer. Recent theatre credits include **SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE** (Eclipse Theatre), **SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD** (Theatre Sheridan), **STUPIDHEAD!** (Outside the March), **Billy Elliot** (Stratford). Composing credits include **QUENCH** (Axon Interactive) and **IN BETWEEN** (National Ballet of Canada). Songwriter & Arranger for **SUPER SIMPLE SONGS**, one of the most watched educational channels on YouTube. Currently writing the score for **MACBETH** (Ballet Kelowna), premiering spring 2022.



JUSTIN GRAY
(he/him)
Bass

For The Musical Stage Company: **NEXT TO NORMAL; FUN HOME; 7 seasons of UNCOVERED.**

Justin Gray is a Toronto-based award-winning bassist, composer, producer and educator. His main influences include jazz, R&B, Indian classical and world music. Justin is currently on faculty at Humber, Sheridan and Centennial College. Throughout this career, Justin has received a number awards and distinctions, most recently a nomination for Instrumental Solo Artist of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards. In 2010, Justin invented and co-created a new hybrid instrument, the Bass Veena, and is now emerging as the first artist to perform on it worldwide. Justin currently leads his own contemporary world music ensemble, **JUSTIN GRAY & SYNTHESIS**, which released their debut album **NEW HORIZONS** in 2017.

www.JustinGraySynthesis.com



JAMIE DRAKE
(he/him)
Drums & Percussion

For The Musical
Stage Company:
14 seasons of

**UNCOVERED; NEXT TO NORMAL; FUN
HOME; LIFE AFTER; EDGES.**

Selected additional credits: **LONDON ROAD** (Canadian Stage); **MATILDA** (Mirvish); **SANCTUARY SONG** (NAC); **PINOCCHIO** (YPT); **CANDIDE, INTO THE WOODS** (TIFT); and music for the Shaw Festival. Known for his stylistic diversity, Jamie is a percussionist, drummer, and composer/creator who received his Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Toronto. As a member of **TORQ PERCUSSION QUARTET**, he has been a featured soloist with the Toronto Symphony, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and Buffalo Philharmonic. He is the percussionist for the renowned **Hamilton Children's Choir**, has performed with a variety of singers including **Ron Sexsmith, Heather Bambrick** and **Sharron Matthews**, and plays in the Motown band **The Big Sound**. Jamie is a proud Yamaha Canada artist. [@opus_32](https://www.instagram.com/opus_32)
jamiedrake.ca



**MIRANDA
MULHOLLAND**
(she/her)
Violin

For The Musical
Stage Company:
DEBUT.

Miranda Mulholland is a JUNO nominated singer and fiddler. Her touring and recording credits include **Harrow Fair, Great Lake Swimmers, Bowfire, The Jim Cuddy Band** and many, many more. She has performed on over 70 albums, as well as TV and film. She is the owner of the boutique record label, Roaring Girl Records, and is the Founder and Artistic Director of Muskoka Music Festival. In recent years, Miranda has emerged as one of the World's foremost Artist Advocates, championing fair remuneration for creators. Miranda is Vice Chair of the Board of Governors (Massey & Roy Thomson Halls).

www.mirandamulholland.ca

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES



REZA JACOBS

(he/him)

Music Supervision
The Fine Furneaux
Director of Music

For The Musical
Stage Company:

CAROLINE, OR CHANGE (2012 & 2020);
13 seasons of **UNCOVERED; FUN HOME;**
LIFE AFTER; and more.

Reza Jacobs is an award-winning music director, arranger, composer, and sound designer, known for his versatility in style and genre. Credits include composition and sound design for the Shaw Festival, Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Factory Theatre, Tarragon, Theatre Passe Muraille, Volcano Theatre, Cahoots Theatre, Luminato Festival, & Harbourfront's World Stage Festival. As Music Director he has won Dora Mavor Moore Awards for **LIFE AFTER** (Best Music Direction & Best Musical 2018); **LONDON ROAD** (Best Music Direction & Best Musical 2014); **CAROLINE, OR CHANGE** (Best Music Direction & Best Musical 2012); and **ASSASSINS** (Best Musical 2010). He has played Ted in **2 PIANOS 4 HANDS** (NAC, Globe, & Centaur) and has been the resident Canadian Music Director for Andrea Martin's one-woman show, **EVERYTHING MUST GO**.



FIONA SAUDER

(she/they)

Concept & Staging

For The
Musical Stage
Company: **BAAPII**
ROHO; One Song
Glory (2019 & 2020).

Fiona Sauder is an Ottawa born director, writer, performer & educator. As the Artistic Director of Bad Hats Theatre (Soulpepper Theatre's Associate Company), her work won multiple Dora Awards & their writing has entertained audiences globally. Her recent adaptation of **ALICE IN WONDERLAND** was released as a family musical film & played to 12,000+ audiences. Select directing credits: **HOLIDAY INN** (Shaw Festival, Asst. Dir. - Upcoming); **AFRO-PERUANA** (Canadian Stage); **SUNSHINE BOY** (Randolph College); **MAMMA MIA!**, **AMERICAN IDIOT**, **LES MISERABLES IN CONCERT** (YES Theatre); **LIFE IN A BOX** (Bad Hats Theatre - Dora Nomination for Outstanding Direction). As a performer she's had the pleasure of working with Canadian Stage, The Blyth Festival, Soulpepper Theatre, Young People's Theatre, Driftwood Theatre, & more. @fionasauder



LISA HUMBER

(she/her)

Stage Manager

For The Musical
Stage Company:
GREY GARDENS;
ELEGIES.

Lisa is a Toronto based Artist, Stage Manager, Producer & Musician.

Selected Stage Management credits include: **COME FROM AWAY; STRICTLY BALLROOM; THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD; LES MISÉRABLES; WAR HORSE; GHOST STORIES; THE SOUND OF MUSIC;** & **DIRTY DANCING** (Mirvish Productions); **ALICE IN WONDERLAND** (Bad Hats Theatre); **BUTCHER** (Why Not Theatre & Mirvish Productions); **IT COMES IN WAVES** (PANAMANIA, bluemouth inc & Necessary Angel); **DANCE MARATHON** (bluemouth inc); **SLEEPING BEAUTY;** & **PETER PAN IN WONDERLAND** (Ross Petty Productions). She is the co-creator, co-producer, & co-host of the online talk show **CHECK IN FROM AWAY**, 1/4th the artistic core of bluemouth inc theatre company and her first music album is due for release in 2022. [@lisahumber](https://linktr.ee/lisahumber)
<https://linktr.ee/lisahumber>



ROBYNNE HARDER
(she/her)
COVID-19 & Production Coordinator

For The Musical Stage Company: 4 seasons of **UNCOVERED; One Song Glory** (2016) (Stage Manager).

Robynne Harder is a Toronto based director, producer, filmmaker, & amateur ukulele player. Credits include: **TO LOVE AN ARTIST, MEANT & EURYDICE** (Styx and Stones Productions, Director/Producer); **TRANSFERRING KYLE** (The InspiraT0 Festival, Director); **THE MILLENNIAL MALCONENT** (Tarragon Theatre, Apprentice Director). Robynne holds a B.F.A. from X University, & is a graduate of the Commercial Theatre Institute's producing intensive (New York). Robynne is the Production Manager of

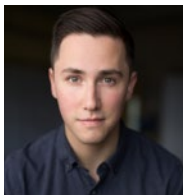
The School of Toronto Dance Theatre & Co-Creator & Co-Artistic Director of Styx and Stones Productions.



JOEY LAU
(she/her)
Apprentice Stage Manager

For The Musical Stage Company: **BLACKOUT** (Apprentice Stage Manager); **BAAPII ROHO** (Stage Manager).

Joey is a multidisciplinary artist born, raised & residing in Toronto, Canada. Her passions include theatrical management, arts education and creative development. Joey received her BFA from the Ryerson School of Performance in 2019 majoring in theatre production, with emphasis in stage management, scenic art and theatre administration; and with that, she has also completed minors in acting/dance studies & business. Her recent works include collaborations in education and/or design departments of Flato Markham Theatre, Living Arts Centre, Electric Moon Theatre Company, City Youth Players, Canadian Opera Company and designing the scenic décor of the premiering holiday rink for Toronto Union. Joey is currently a theatre production coordinator with education-technology company, Knowledgehook.



**JONATHAN
CORKAL-
ASTORGA** (he/him)
Copyist

For The Musical
Stage Company:

BLACKOUT; CAROLINE, OR CHANGE
(2020)(Assistant to the Music Director);
REPRINT (Accompanist/Copyist); **DR.
SILVER: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE;**
2 seasons of **UNCOVERED** (Music
Assistant); **RBC Apprentice Music
Supervisor/Arranger** (2018-19); **One
Song Glory** (2020)(Music Director).

Jonathan Corkal-Astorga is a Chilean-Canadian music director, copyist, accompanist and actor. An avid supporter of new theatrical works, he has been involved with the development of numerous new musicals, both on the music team and as a performer. He is currently on staff at Sheridan College and George Brown College, and is a graduate of Sheridan's Hon. Bach. in Music Theatre Performance. Originally from Saskatoon, he currently resides in Toronto with his cat, Chloe. He is forever thankful for his family in Chile and Canada for their support - saludos y abrazos a todos!



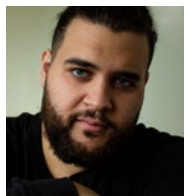
**MATT
BIRNBAUM**
(he/him)
Lighting Designer

For The Musical
Stage Company:

13 seasons of **UNCOVERED** (Lighting);
JOHN & JEN (Assistant Stage Manager);
**ELEGIES: A SONG CYCLE; A MAN OF NO
IMPORTANCE** (Associate Producer).

Matt is thrilled to be joining The Musical Stage Company for his 14th season.

When he is not lighting these shows, Matt spends his days as the General Manager for the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company. Many thanks to Mitchell for inviting him back year after year and much love to Ryla, Blake and Madison.



KAREEM VAUDE
(they/them)
RBC Apprentice
Director

For The Musical
Stage Company:
DEBUT.

Kareem Vaude is a Non-Binary, Arab-Canadian artist currently located in Tkaronto. They are a multidisciplinary creator whose skill set includes: acting, writing, directing, producing, and lyricism. Their personal and artistic mandate is to create/produce/act in works that tell the stories of marginalized peoples as well as advocate for equality and diversity throughout this industry. They are a graduate of George Brown's 2020 Theatre School Ensemble where they trained in classical theatre performance. Kareem is the Co-Artistic Director for their company, G'RILLA INC. where they are fortunate to work alongside their dear friend and colleague, Nicole Pryce.



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The arts are important to building rich, vibrant communities. That's why we're pleased to support Uncovered, presented by The Musical Stage Co.

At CIBC it's our mission to help build vibrant and beautiful communities all across Canada.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH SARA FARB

BY CAMERON VINDUA

We sat down with returning artist and performer Sara Farb to learn more about her experiences with our **UNCOVERED** concerts of the past, as well as adapting to this year's special edition of our signature annual concert, with both a live and digital performance.



As a long-time UNCOVERED artist, how have you prepared for the concert? How has this changed during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Nothing much has changed in my approach. It's usually a matter of acquainting myself with the artist's songbook as best I can before we start to get a sense of the songs we're gonna do.

Dolly's songs are less familiar to me than some of the past ones and man they're good songs, did you know?

What has become your favourite aspect of the UNCOVERED concert process?

Working with Reza; figuring out how we're gonna tell the story in each song together and building the pieces one at a time. We've had ones where it's all come really quickly and ones where I have literally lain on the floor crying from frustration.

The end result is always great. And he and I have such a nice shorthand at this point, it feels very intuitive and very pleasant.

What have you found to be most exciting about 'uncovering' and performing the catalogue of Dolly Parton?

As I said, these songs weren't very familiar to me, so getting to hear her work and understand what all the fuss is about has been a good thing. Seriously, did you know? How good the songs are? They're good songs.

How do you approach performing an in-person concert that will be turned into a film? What can audiences expect from the in-person experience?

They can expect a normal live show I think. I won't be changing anything. The point has always been telling these stories as clearly and dynamically as possible, so that's what I'll do.

If you could choose any artist that we haven't spotlighted yet to 'uncover', who would you choose and why?

Someone Canadian maybe. We've done some Canadians but not enough. Celine Dion is a no-brainer to me.

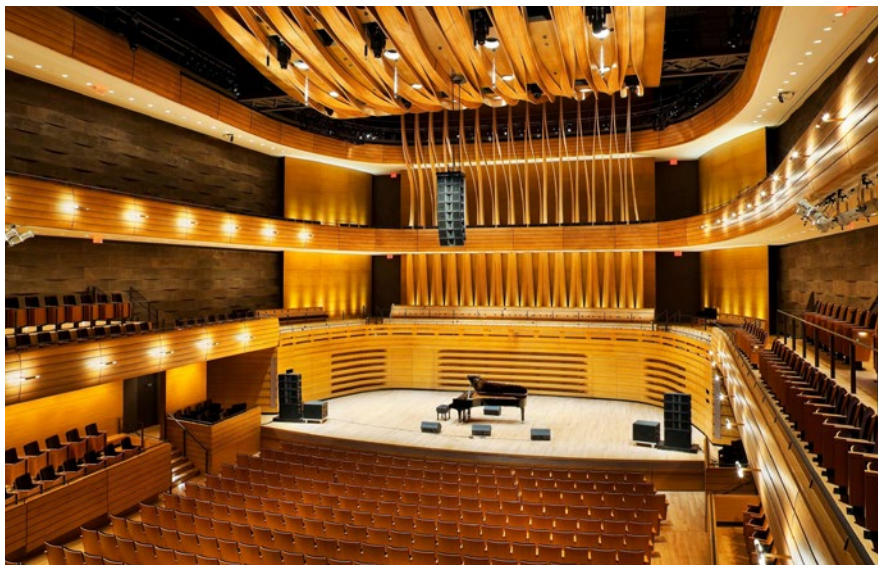


UNCOVERED is being offered as both an in-person experience and a digital concert this year. Do you think digital theatre will be a continued practice for arts organizations in a post-pandemic world?

I have no idea. I'll say probably? My concern is that it provides an excuse to not go out and attend theatre. Before, you either went to a show or you didn't, with some exceptions from larger-budget companies that could present shows digitally to wider audiences.

Theatre is now frequently experienced in one's home, and that's a hard thing to coax people away from, especially people who've been afraid for two straight years of convening in a public space. It's very tempting to avoid the chore and anxieties involved in leaving the house. If it does continue, my hope is that the digital content is done consciously, that is, not simply filming a production to be watched at home, but using the medium of film to its full advantage.

It's a hybrid of film and theatre that I think we were moving towards anyway, which is a cool thing. Just not at the expense or extinction of live theatre. I would like to continue to perform live in front of people without worrying how it's translating on camera.



(Top) Image of Sara Farb, UnCovered Rehearsals 2021. Photo by Dahlia Katz.

(Bottom) Image of Koerner Hall, courtesy of Royal Conservatory of Music.

THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

THE MUSICAL STAGE CO.

is Canada's leading charitable musical theatre company. Established in 2004, we strive to make Canada a leader in musical theatre by telling our most important stories with music.

We believe it's better with music.

We are inspired by music's unique ability to viscerally affect people and are committed to cultivating experiences – onstage and off – that transform lives, build empathy and create community through musical theatre.

We incubate new Canadian musicals from development to production, investing in Canadian musical theatre writers and building national and international partnerships. Our musical productions – including award-winning contemporary musicals, world premieres and concerts – are seen live by 30,000 people over the 80+ nights that we are onstage annually in venues both traditional and surprising. To date, our work has been recognized with 105 Dora Award nominations, 23 Dora Awards

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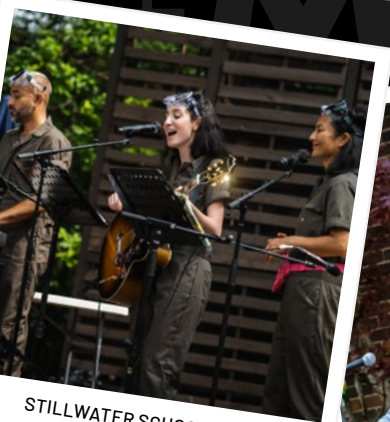
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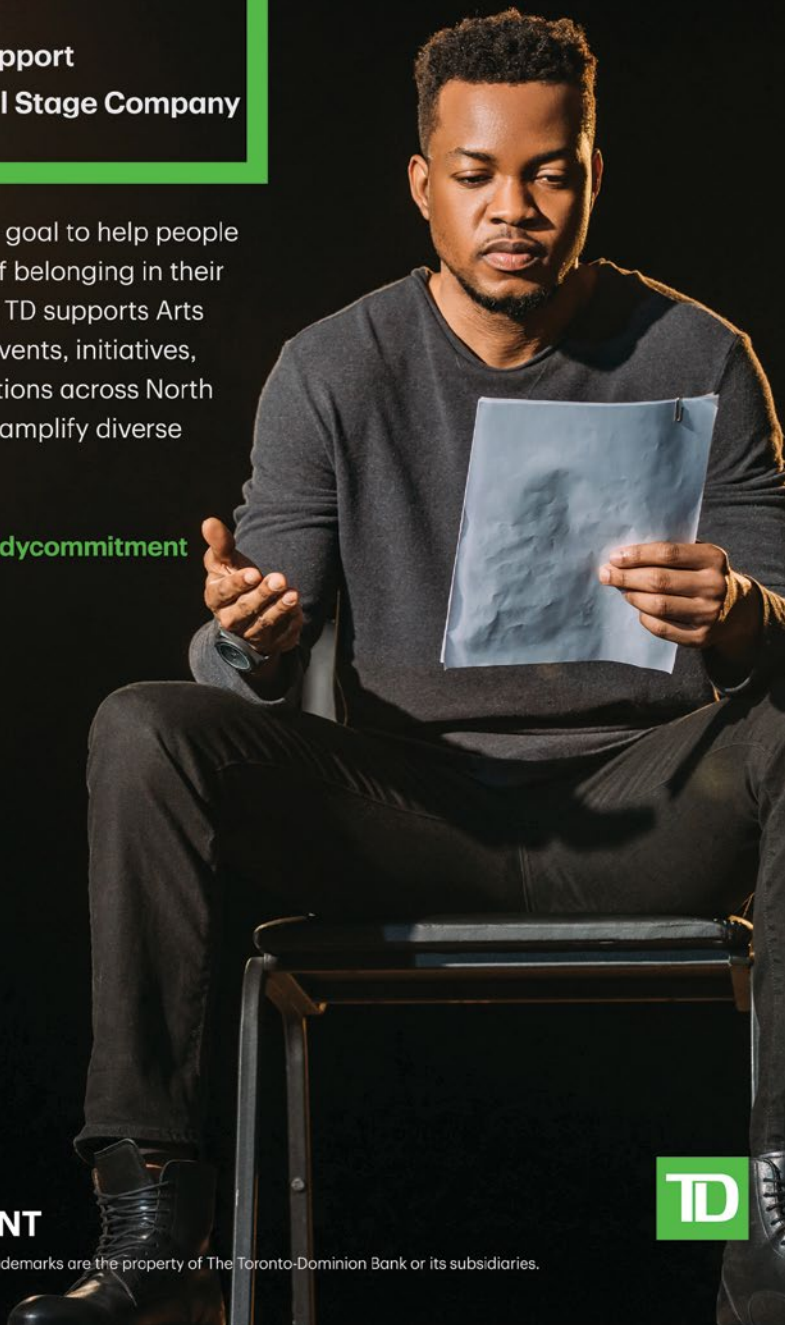


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