DARKE HALL

SPOTLIGHT

JANUARY TO MAY 2026, ISSUE #2

EXPLORE THE DARKE HALL PRESENTS SERIES

BELLE PLAINE & BLAKE BERGLUND - February 14

MICHAEL KAESHAMMER - March 11

BLAK: ICONIC CANADIAN WOMEN IN MUSIC - March 14

A WORLD TRANSFORMED - March 27

TEAGAN LITTLECHIEF - March 28

RIDGE BY THE FUGITIVES - April 8 & 9

DELHI 2 DUBLIN - May 1

PLUS:
Meet our 2025 Founding Donors
How to Support Darke Hall
Take Your Seat 50/50 Raffle

WELCOME TO DARKE HALL

Board of Directors
Back row: Jim Tomkins (Chair), Ron Podbielski (Vice Chair), David Dick, Lisa Peters, David Millar, Noela Bamford
Front row: Ruth Smillie (Founding CEO, retired), Nicole Westerlund, Ann Phillips, Christie Schultz

CREDITS AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FUNDERS

SEASON SPONSORS

Darke Hall is located on Treaty 4 territory, the traditional lands of the nêhiyawak, Anihšināpēk, Dakota, Nakoda, Lakota, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation

I never grow tired of the view from my office window, framed by the beautiful heritage windows restored during the renovation of Darke Hall. Right now, a blanket of snow covers everything, making the world look fresh and untouched—much like the beginning of a new year.

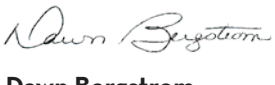
That sense of newness resonates through the second half of our 2025–2026 season, as we introduce you to some exceptional artists you may not yet know, but who I promise you won't want to miss.

WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US FOR:

- **Date Night at Darke Hall** with **Belle Plaine & Blake Berglund** on Valentine's Day
- Dazzling piano virtuosity from **Michael Kaeshammer**
- Powerful music and storytelling with **Krystle Dos Santos** in *BLAK: Iconic Canadian Women in Music*, **Echo Chamber** with *A World Transformed*, and **The Fugitives with Ridge** – ask us about our **Learn Together** program, offering $10 tickets for youth ages 20 and under for these shows
- Saskatchewan country powerhouse **Teagan Littlechief**
- And a joyful season finale with **Delhi 2 Dublin**

If you don't already subscribe to our e-newsletter, I invite you to do so. It's the easiest way to stay connected to all that's unfolding at Darke Hall – from upcoming performances to the wonderful work of community organizations who rent our space - and to be among the first to hear about special events and show announcements.

I am deeply grateful that you continue to choose Darke Hall. Your support helped us sell out six performances this fall, and that shared energy is what fills this hall with meaning. I hope you'll discover new favourite artists with us in 2026 and, as always, enjoy an unforgettable experience from the moment you arrive to the final note.



Dawn Bergstrom
Artistic Producer
Darke Hall

DATE NIGHT AT DARKE HALL

Saturday, February 14, 2026
7:30 pm

BELLE PLAI & BLAKE BERGLUND

WHERE LOVE, MUSIC, AND HOME MEET

NE

MEET THE ARTISTS

It's fitting that the soundtrack for Valentine's Day at Darke Hall will be Saskatchewan's beloved musical couple, Belle Plaine and Blake Berglund. Known for their poetic songwriting, distinct voices, and deep prairie roots, their shared chemistry will make for an evening of heartfelt, homegrown music. Before they take the stage, Belle and Blake talk about love, music, and what it means to share both — onstage and off.

You've performed together in many settings — from living rooms to legendary stages. What makes performing together at Darke Hall feel special?

Belle: *The experience of being in Darke Hall for any reason is elevating! Regarding this show though, we're able to bring our full band and almost unlimited ideas. How do we want people to remember the night? How do we want to remember it? There's so much potential with the rare ability to realize it.*

Blake: *Intimacy is something I associate with home and Darke Hall is literally blocks from our front door. Sharing what we do on that stage comes with a sense of trust and service much like hosting family in our home.*

Your songs often balance tenderness with strength and storytelling. How does love — romantic or otherwise — shape the way you write and perform?

Belle: *I'm a critically sensitive person. It's a super power. It's a knowing I've learned to trust. When I embody sensitivity in writing and performing I'm at the top of my game. I'm listening and responding. I think that's definitive of love whether it's for an audience, a partner, yourself, or for your craft.*

Your music carries a sense of prairie grit and philosophy. How does collaboration with Belle influence your perspective or your process as a songwriter?

Blake: *Playing with perspective has elevated my craft tenfold. Belle's outlook on the world gives me a new palette of paint which inherently influences my views and how I express them to the world. That, and she's my most trusted editor.*

It's Valentine's Day — what's your idea of the perfect encore to the perfect show?

Both: If we told you that, you'd know how the show ends.

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
7:30 pm

MICHAEL KAESHAMM

TURN IT UP

MEET THE ARTIST

Michael Kaeshammer isn't so much a piano player as a piano whisperer, a master musician and songwriter able to coax dazzling, kaleidoscopic sounds from his instrument in a way few can rival. That gift powers Turn It Up, Kaeshammer's superb 15th album, broadly described as "eclectic yet accessible jazz-based pop" though, as with all Kaeshammer's music, far more expansive than one simple description can possibly illustrate.

Across a brilliant, globe-trotting career highlighted by nine tours of China, three appearances at the Olympics, and countless shows opposite international superstars, the German-born, B.C.-based Kaeshammer has electrified audiences with his indelible repertoire and consistently positive outlook on life which infuses his lyrics. "I am a very positive person," confirms the seven-time JUNO Award nominee and unabashed foodie, who hosts cooking show Kaeshammer's Kitchen on Vancouver Island's CHEK TV. "I really love playing shows and being on-stage. If Turn It Up helps me to do more of that, then I'm all in. Music is my favourite thing to do."

Saturday, March 14, 2026
7:30 pm
BLAK:
ICONIC CANADIAN WOMEN IN MUSIC
FEATURING
KRYSTLE
DOS SANTOS

DECADES OF INFLUENCE

MEET THE ARTIST

Award-winning vocalist and storyteller Krystle Dos Santos brings her acclaimed show BLAK to Darke Hall on March 14. Blending soul, jazz, and R&B, she weaves personal narrative with history to illuminate the stories of Black Canadians — stories too often left untold. Before taking the stage, Krystle shares the inspiration behind BLAK and what she hopes audiences carry with them long after the final note.

BLAK blends music, storytelling, and history to explore the lived experiences of Black Canadians. What sparked the creation of this project, and why was now the right time to bring it to the stage?

BLAK was created to offer the kind of representation I longed for growing up — people who look like me, doing what I dreamed was possible. Seeing yourself reflected matters. This project celebrates Black excellence in Canada, past, present, and future, and honours voices and achievements too often overlooked or erased.

Your voice and artistry span soul, jazz, and R&B. How do these musical influences shape the way you tell the stories within BLAK?

I've been influenced by soul, jazz, and R&B my entire life. Knowing that Canadian artists have shaped these genres authentically matters. In BLAK, I share songs by contemporary Black female artists alongside stories of historic Black Canadian women, tracing decades of influence while uplifting and amplifying voices past and present.

BLAK is both deeply personal and broadly educational. How do you balance sharing vulnerable narratives with the responsibility of presenting history and collective memory?

I think anytime you can connect a personal experience or story to anything, it deepens the connection and experience for me, and in turn for audiences. Without the personal connection, it's just facts - the personal adds the feelings and emotions that bring these amazing people and their stories to life. I think it gives the audience permission to step into the the shoes of the women I am highlighting and truly have empathy for their lived experiences.

Friday, March 27, 2026
7:30 pm
A WORLD
TRANSFORM

BEYOND ONE COMMUNITY

MEET THE ARTISTS

Blending classical music, dance, and multimedia, Echo Chamber creates visually striking, emotionally immersive work. On March 27, 2026, they bring *A World Transformed* to Darke Hall — an exploration of hope, change, and human connection. We caught up with founder Aaron to talk collaboration, creative risk, and art's power to shift perspective.

***A World Transformed* brings together music, dance, and visual storytelling. Can you tell us what inspired this piece — and what "transformation" means to you within it?**

"A World Transformed" refers to the memoir Judy Shepard wrote about her son. In our show, the title also reflects the broader idea that individual lives and choices can transform the world around us, which is a central theme of the show. At a time when the world feels increasingly divided, we wanted to present a human story and create a space for the feelings it brings up to be experienced through music and dance.

Matthew Shepard's story resonates beyond one community. It speaks to any person or group of people who've experienced persecution, showing not only the devastation of bullying and how it shapes the lives of those around it, but the strength, power, and resilience of communities coming together to stand against discrimination.

Echo Chamber is known for breaking traditional boundaries between performers and audiences. How do you hope people will experience this show differently than a typical concert or dance performance?

On one level, we hope the integration of music and dance can be appreciated simply as a beautiful combination of two expressive art forms. At the same time, bringing artists from different disciplines together to tell this story is in some ways a metaphor for one of our show's core messages, that our shared humanity has the potential to unite us, rather than letting personal or cultural differences pull us apart.

Saturday, March 28, 2026
7:30 pm

TEAGAN LITTLECHIE

MY SONG IS GOING TO BE ON THE MOON

MEET THE ARTIST

Cree-Saulteaux country-rock singer-songwriter Teagan Littlechief has carved a powerful path rooted in voice, story, and resilience. From making history at the 109th Grey Cup to earning national recognition and global milestones, her journey continues to rise. Ahead of her performance, we sit down with Teagan to talk music, identity, and strength.

You've had a remarkable journey — from winning GX94's Star Search at 15 to becoming one of Canada's leading Indigenous country-rock artists. How do you reflect on your early beginnings when you step onstage today?

I am forever grateful for the opportunities that I have experienced with my beginnings, it's humbling to remember where I started and where I am today because of them. My mother played a huge role in influencing my journey in music.

Your performance of the national anthem in Cree, English, and French at the 109th Grey Cup was history-making. What did that moment mean to you, your family, and your community?

When I was asked to perform the national anthem for the 109th grey cup I was ecstatic. I couldn't believe that my name was brought to the table. My family was especially happy for me, my son got to experience it on the sidelines and my parents got to watch from great seats. My community was happy.

In late 2025, your self-written song "Need You To Go" will be sent to the Moon as part of the Lunar Codex Program—an extraordinary milestone. How did you react when you learned your music would literally leave Earth?

At first, I wasn't sure what was going on with it to be honest but when I got the confirmation, I told my parents and they were extremely proud, my son had a hard time believing where my song was going until he saw the email. To know my song is going to be on the moon and playable for 1000 years is kind of surreal.

Thank You to OSAC

OSAC Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
7:30 pm
Sponsored by the U of R Alumni Association

Thursday, April 9, 2026
2:00 pm
Supported by Veterans Affairs Canada

RIDGE BY T
FUGITIVES

SOLDIER'S POINT OF VIEW

HE

MEET THE BAND

Canadian folk collective The Fugitives bring their acclaimed production *RIDGE* to Darke Hall on April 8 & 9. Blending music, storytelling, and history, the work explores the legacy of Vimy Ridge through a contemporary lens. Before taking the stage, the group reflects on remembrance and connecting past and present through art.

***RIDGE* combines folk music, spoken word, and historical narrative. What first inspired you to re-examine the legacy of Vimy Ridge through this multidisciplinary approach?**

The songs are the heart of the show. Since they were written by, and sung by, soldiers, it allows us to access their perspective in a way that even their letters at the time don't - since those letters were often sanitized for their families. In the songs, we get them commiserating, joking, and mourning with their fellow soldiers.

You worked with archival letters and primary sources to build this project. How did engaging directly with the words of Canadian soldiers influence the music and storytelling?

So much of what we're told about warfare is from the mouths of military and government leaders. We weren't interested in that perspective. We were interested in the points of view of the soldiers on the ground. Everything in the show is about their experiences.

For those discovering *RIDGE* for the first time, what would you tell them about the kind of journey—musical and emotional—they're about to embark on?

It's a tough show to listen to, at times, but we try to offer it with moments of beauty and levity. And we put the words of WWI soldiers front and centre, so at the end of the day it's worth hearing what they went through, so we can better understand them and ourselves.

SEASON FINALE
Friday, May 1, 2026
7:30 pm
DELHI 2 DUBLIN

MUSIC MIXING CULTURES

MEET THE BAND

Delhi 2 Dublin fuse bhangra, Celtic fiddle, electronic beats, and global rhythms into an explosive live experience. The Vancouver-based collective brings their high-energy East-meets-West sound to Darke Hall on May 1 for the 2025–2026 season finale. We caught up with the band ahead of the show to talk creativity, live energy, and what's coming.

Your live shows are legendary for their energy. What do you love most about performing in front of an audience — and what keeps that spark alive night after night?

The energy exchange and connectivity. When the crowd gives it back, it fuels us. Every night feels different and that unpredictability keeps the spark alive and pushes us to leave everything on stage. It's highly addictive so maybe we are chasing it!

Your music often carries a message of joy, unity, and cultural connection. How do you see your role as artists in building bridges between communities?

We see ourselves as secondary bridge-builders. What we do first is express our joy, our music mixes cultures with curiosity, respect, and celebration and if that yields people leaving feeling more connected that's all bonus as well as awesome.

And finally — when you're not on tour, what's your perfect way to unwind?

I think we create music to do that. It's more than an addiction, it's a way of life! We also do love spending time with our families and doing domestic things, anyone up for a Costco run?

MY DARKE HALL, WHY I GIVE: RON PODBIELSKI

For many in Regina's arts community, Darke Hall represents history, possibility, and shared pride in local talent. Few people embody that belief more fully than Ron — a donor, ticket buyer, Ultimate Pass holder, and volunteer board member whose commitment to community runs deep.

"Darke Hall showcases outstanding Canadian artists in an intimate setting," Ron says. "The connection between the performers and the audience is mutual and magical. When I see a show here, my spirit is uplifted and renewed." Beyond concerts, he values the hall's year-round role as a home for community choirs, dance groups, and local performers. "That's exactly what arts and culture are supposed to do."

After more than 40 years in Regina, Ron sees arts and culture as essential to a vibrant city. "The health of our sporting, arts, and cultural amenities is what makes a city great," he reflects. "Every time I see people leaving a show with happy smiles, my commitment to Darke Hall is reinforced."

That belief inspired Ron to make a generous gift of securities in support of the hall's long- term sustainability. "If you want to build and sustain something important, you lead with your resources and your time," he says. "Every dollar is meaningful."

A passionate live-music fan, Ron calls Darke Hall "the best live house in Saskatchewan." Looking ahead, he hopes his support helps future generations discover the transformative power of live performance. "When people fall in love with music and storytelling," he says, "they see community — and their city — in a whole new way."

WHY WE RENT AT DARKE HALL

COLLECTIVE STUDIOS & DARKE HALL: A CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Collective Studios has become one of Regina's most vibrant homes for adult dance, offering everything from drop-in classes to polished performance showcases. While their dancers and instructors perform across the city, time and again Collective Studios returns to Darke Hall for their most meaningful events.

"The Darke Hall is such an integral part of our studio," says Founder and Director Jaimie.

"We had only been open for three months when we held our first showcase there — it's truly been with us since the beginning." From the start, she says, the welcome and support from the Darke Hall team made the space feel like home. "We are always treated with kindness and support, and we've built wonderful relationships with the team." For both performers and audiences, the experience is unmatched. "The Darke Hall is a state-of-the-art facility that allows us to really elevate our shows," Jaimie explains. "There is nothing else like it in the city." She credits not only the beautiful history and architecture, but also the technical expertise behind the scenes. "Jamie and John are so talented and make anything possible."

What keeps Collective Studios coming back is the shared vision. "Whenever we have an idea, everyone jumps on board to make it happen," Jaimie says. "It's more than a venue rental — it's our second home."

WHY I ATTEND: JEAN MCLUHAN

For many people in our community, Darke Hall is more than a venue — it's a place where memories are made, where music fills the room, and where the arts feel close to home. Few embody that spirit more than Jean McLuhan, a longtime ticket holder, donor, and Ultimate Pass supporter who lovingly refers to the space as "her Darke Hall."

Jean's love of live performance and discovery has grown through seasons of attending concerts and events across the hall's eclectic programming. From the Darke Hall Presents series to the many rental events that animate the stage, she values the opportunity to experience a wide range of artists and genres in one welcoming space. The Ultimate Pass allows her to attend often, enjoy added benefits, and deepen her connection to the hall.

Although Jean didn't grow up in Regina, she immediately felt the significance of Darke Hall after its restoration — its history, artistic vision, and role in the city's cultural life. Inspired by the warmth of the staff and volunteers and the sense of community they create, Jean gives to help ensure Darke Hall continues to flourish, offering affordable access to exceptional local, national, and international talent for years to come.

WITH HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Along with our amazing ticket holders and supporters, our **Founding Donors** are at the heart of everything we do at Darke Hall, and this past season gave us many meaningful moments to celebrate their generosity. From intimate meet-and-greets with Connie Kaldor and The Barra MacNeils, to welcoming conversations around the now-familiar yellow table in the lobby, these gatherings reminded us that live performance is about connection — on stage and beyond it.

These special moments brought our community closer to the artists they love and to one another, creating a sense of belonging that extends far beyond a single night at the hall. Thoughtful touches, like custom tote bags and complimentary coat check, helped make every visit feel just a little more personal.

As Darke Hall continues to grow as a registered charity, we invite new supporters to stand alongside our Founding Donors. Join a community that believes in preserving a historic stage, uplifting artists, and ensuring that live performance remains accessible, welcoming, and vibrant for generations to come.

Connect
Just like our events and our audience, we want to get creative with our options for how you can support us, and how we can thank you.

Megan McCormick
Director of Engagement
Darke Hall Society
meganm@darkehall.ca
306-523-2752

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 DONORS

2025 DARKE HALL FOUNDING DONORS

With deep gratitude, we acknowledge the vision and generosity of our Founding Donors, whose support in our first year as a registered charity has been truly transformative. Your belief in Darke Hall's mission — to celebrate live performance, nurture local talent, and strengthen our community through the arts — has helped lay the foundation for a sustainable future. Because of you, this historic stage continues to thrive as a place where stories are shared, music fills the air, and connections are made that last a lifetime.

This list recognizes all donations made to the Darke Hall Society Inc between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

$1000+
Joanne Hillis
Caron & Elaine Hopfner
Sharon Lowry
Jean McLuhan
Mr. Ron Podbielski
Lore Ruschiensky & Dennis Weist
Helen Timm

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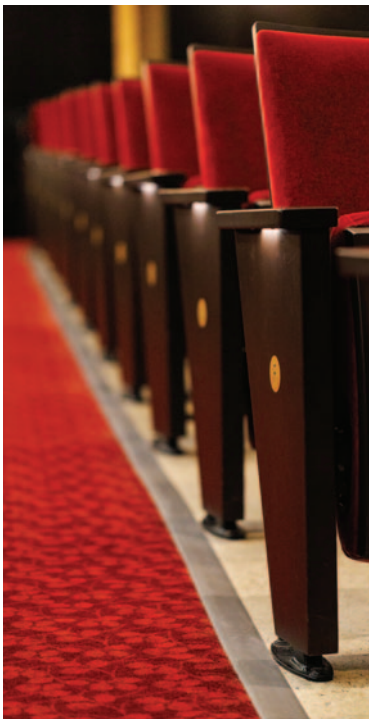

We are deeply grateful to the many Friends of Darke Hall, in-kind service partners, and media partners who share their time, talents, and resources to help our stage shine. Your generosity extends far beyond financial support — it builds community, fosters creativity, and amplifies the stories that bring people together. Together, you help us celebrate live performance and ensure that Darke Hall remains a welcoming, vibrant, and inspiring gathering place for all.

Foundations
Ann & Rogers Phillips Foundation
Lynn and Jim Tomkins Foundation Fund at the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation
Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundation at the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation

Friends of Darke Hall Members
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For the latest news, events, and announcements, visit the new darkehall.ca and stay connected to everything happening at the hall.

Made possible with support from the Lorne & Evelyn Johnson Foundation

Lorne & Evelyn Johnson Fund
Held at the Saskatchewan Community Foundation

DARKE HALL SOCIETY

Take Your Seat

50/50

CASH RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Your opportunity to win while supporting unforgettable live music, theatre, and shared experiences at Darke Hall.

Every ticket helps keep our historic stage vibrant — welcoming artists, audiences, and moments that bring Regina together.

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE UNTIL MAY 4

Darke Hall Society Inc.
2255 College Ave, Regina, SK S4P 0S9

Ticket Packages: 1 ticket $5 | 3 tickets $10 | 10 tickets $20 | 30 tickets $50
749,000 total tickets available
Winner receives 50% of ticket sales, to a maximum prize of $625,000

Draw is at 1 pm on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 2255 College Avenue, Regina S4P 0S9
Age Restriction - Must be at least 18 years of age to purchase.

Contact Megan McCormick, Fundraising Coordinator for any questions.
meganm@darkehall.ca or 306-523-2752

SCAN TO BUY