

## **Amanda Martinez and Kellylee Evans**

**Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 8:00pm**

This is the 872<sup>nd</sup> concert in Koerner Hall

**Amanda Martinez**, vocals

**Alex McMaster**, cello

**Kevin Laliberté**, guitar

**Drew Birston**, bass

**Rosendo Leon**, percussion

**Donné Roberts**, guitar & vocals

**Kellylee Evans**, vocals

**Elena Kapeleris**, saxophone

**Rebecca Hennessy**, trumpet

**Michael Shand**, piano & guitar

**Mark Godfrey**, bass

**Ian Wright**, drums

### **Amanda Martinez**

Canadian singer/songwriter Amanda Martinez is the daughter of a South African mother and a Mexican father; her music gorgeously blends the unique spirit of these two cultures with a swirl of Latin soul.

Her latest album, *Libre*, means “free,” and is a celebration of her eclectic roots and inspiration. The collection includes a variety of different guest artists and, with African, Latino, and pop influences, beautifully expresses her desire to remain free in her music – to not be confined to any one genre.

Ms. Martinez has been nominated three times for Latin Jazz Artist of the Year at Canada’s National Jazz Awards and won Best World Music at the Toronto Independent Music Awards. She has travelled the world, headlining at Blue Note jazz club, the 2010 FIFA World Cup festivities, and the 2011 Pan American Games. During the 2015 Pan Am Games, she performed and also served as honorary co-chair of the Ignite program. Additionally, she has worked on radio and TV, and acted in several Canadian shows, including *Designated Survivor* and *Kim’s Convenience*.

Ms. Martinez has been an ambassador for SOS Children’s Villages, a global organization that helps abandoned and orphaned siblings stay united as families, a cause the devoted mother of three calls “close to my heart.” She is currently using her business background to help empower artists as entrepreneurs through her “The Artist Office” workshops.

In 2014, she was awarded Top 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians by the Minister of National Revenue and she is a member of Toronto’s Music Advisory Board for the City of Toronto. She lives in Toronto with her bassist husband and children.

### **Kellylee Evans**

Juno Award winner Kellylee Evans, with six albums to her name, is still shaking it up on *Come On*, her latest Decca release. The stylistic connoisseur has tackled everything from jazz to R&B and pop in such previous tasty classics as *fight or flight?*, *Nina* – her Juno Award-winning tribute to the legendary Nina Simone – and *I Remember When*.

Evans now pushes her muse firmly into the soulful pop territory with *Come On*, a wonderfully refreshing album about love and life that comes on the heels of two nearly career-ending accidents: a freak lightning strike in her Ottawa kitchen and further effects of a concussion suffered during a fall at her home.

Produced and co-written by Eric Legnini (Stefano Di Battista), this is post-romantic soul at its finest; a project of strong vision and great execution that signals the return of Kellylee Evans as a bold explorer and interpreter.

It only gets better when one experiences her live, in her element: the 2018 Juno Award nominee is a high-octane, chameleon-like performer whose natural charm and improvisational vocal style have been captivating audiences along the way, opening for stars such as John Legend, George Benson, and Willy Nelson.

Kellylee Evans's time is nigh, and *Come On* is just the catalyst to get her there.

*Amanda Martinez made her Koerner Hall debut on October 23, 2009. Kellylee Evans is making her Conservatory debut tonight.*