



# Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

## FRIDAYS @ 12:30 SERIES: AN EVENING WITH ROSIE, JUDY, AND PEGGY

Friday, September 23, 2016

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall

Adi Braun, *vocalist*

Adrean Farrugia, *piano*

Adi Braun salutes three of the greatest female vocalists of all time in

*"An Evening with Rosie, Judy, and Peggy!"*

From the sultry "Come On-a My House", to the sexy mystique of "Fever", to the bittersweet truth of "The Man that Got Away", Adi takes you down the yellow brick road and over the rainbow in a show of Clooney, Garland and Lee signature songs and swinging hits. Adi adds her own signature flair and powerhouse vocals to toe-tapping classics and luscious ballads in a show with something for everyone that will leave you asking "Is That All There Is?"

### THE ARTISTS

**ADI BRAUN** has a long list of cabaret, concert and theatre successes to her credit. She has performed in every major jazz and concert venue in Toronto, has toured Canada, the United States, and Europe. In the fall of 2010 Adi released her fourth CD – "Canadian Scenes I" which marked her singer/songwriter debut. "Canadian Scenes I" follows Adi's three, critically-acclaimed CDs - "Delishious" (2003), short-listed for a 2004 Juno Award nomination, "The Rules of the Game" (2006), from which the song "Show Me Yours" was featured on an episode of the hit U.S. TV series "The "L" Word", and "Live at the Metropolitan Room" (2007), recorded off-the-floor at New York's acclaimed jazz/cabaret venue.

Born in Toronto, Adi Braun grew up in Europe surrounded by music and musicians. Her parents were opera singers, and her father, Victor Braun, was one of Canada's leading baritones. Her first instrument was piano, which she began studying at the age of six. With no formal voice lessons, she made her first pop/jazz recording at age 19.

Following family tradition, Adi trained classically at the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. She began her singing career as a classical recitalist, a soloist with orchestra, and on-stage in operas and operettas alongside her brother, baritone Russell Braun.

Adi started "singing sideways" in the late '90's and returned to the music she loved, which she calls "cabarazz", drawing on aspects from both cabaret and jazz. After winning a local competition in 2001, she was catapulted to centre-stage as one of Canada's leading jazz vocalists. In 2007, Adi was nominated as "Best Major Jazz Vocalist of the Year" by the Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs (MAC).

Her sophisticated style and subtle delivery evokes such vocal greats as Sarah Vaughan, Lotte Lenya, Judy Garland and Rosemary Clooney. Elizabeth Ahlfors of New York's *Cabaret Scenes* describes Adi as "A tad Dinah Washington, a hint of Lena Horne, the enveloping warmth of Doris Day, all gift-wrapped up in a unique sound that is singular Adi Braun!" Adi's repertoire ranges from the Great

American songbook, to European cabaret, to contemporary songs by Canada legend's Shirley Eikhard and Gordon Lightfoot as well as her own originals. Whether she is singing in English, French, Spanish or German, Adi Braun is *"a power-frau who gives jazz standards a unique touch, telling stories that are miniature life moments"* (*Rheinische Post*, Düsseldorf, Germany).

In addition to her performing career, Adi is currently a doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, where she is studying the cabaret music of the Weimar era. A cabaret song cycle of her own compositions is also in the works which Adi hopes to unveil in 2017.

## ADREAN FARRUGIA

*Farrugia proves himself to be one of the current scene's most imaginative pianists."*

-Nic Jones, ALL ABOUT JAZZ.COM

*"Pianist Adrean Farrugia is in superb form"*

-Downbeat Magazine, January 2010

*"Pianist Adrean Farrugia's disc reflects an expansive musical vision and the talent and craft to combine elements from a range of influences"-Peter Hum, The Ottawa Citizen*

*"A gifted pianist. His approach is an intelligent synthesis of styles"-Harvey Pekar*

*"Pianist Farrugia is a young veteran, a first-call sideman who's performed on numerous albums. His excellent CD debut as leader features a forceful, percussive style, fast-developing ideas and a wide-ranging composer's imagination."- Geoff Chapman, Toronto Star*

Award winning pianist and composer Adrean Farrugia is one of Canada's most distinct voices on the piano. Since the late 1990s Adrean has been in high demand as a freelance performer and teacher. Keeping a busy touring schedule, mainly as a sideman, Adrean has toured extensively across Canada and the United States as well as in venues across Europe and in Japan. Adrean has performed/recorded with some of jazz's greatest and most diverse artists including: Larry Carlton, Curtis Fuller, Tom Scott, Bob Brookmeyer, Randy Brecker, Eric Alexander, Jane Bunnett, Ron Blake, Joel Frahm, Matt Penman, Brad Goode, Kenny Wheeler, Darcy James Argue, Don Thompson, Lorne Lofsky, Kevin Turcotte, Kelly Jefferson, and Pat Labarbera.

Adrean is currently pianist for such diverse projects as the Matt Dusk Band, the Brad Goode Quartet, The Ernesto Cervini Quartet (featuring saxophonist Joel Frahm), Kiki Misumi, Tim Shia's 'The Worst Pop Band Ever', the Bob Brough Quartet, John Cheesman Orchestra, and the Darcy Hepner Big Band. Adrean also works regularly with his wife, vocalist Sophia Perlman. Adrean is currently on the faculty of York University and Mohawk College of Arts and Technology where he teaches jazz piano and improvisation. He has also done workshops/clinics at the University of Colorado, University of Toronto, The University of Western Ontario, The Banff Centre for the arts, The Sydney and Brisbane Conservatories, and in Warsaw Poland as part of the Polish Jazz Society's 35th annual Summer Jazz Workshop. As well, Adrean has been a contributing writer to piano guru Larry Fine's publication "The Piano Book", the world's foremost publication on all things piano. Adrean was the only Canadian performer and panelist at the 63rd annual Conference on World Affairs in Boulder Colorado. Adrean is a Shigeru Kawai Artist.

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