

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY
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March 1, 2019

High-Resolution photo: [Circle Game.jpg](#)

Description: One of the most influential recording artists of the late 20th century, Joni Mitchell has often reflected on social and environmental ideals through her music. *Circle Game* reinterprets Mitchell's iconic songs such as "Big Yellow Taxi," "River," "California," and "A Case of You" through the ears and eyes of a new generation, connecting to the politics and world we know today.

Photo Credit: Sara Vickruck, Adriana Ravalli, and Kimmy Choi in the Firehall's 2017 production of *Circle Game*. Photo by Emily Cooper

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A new take on one of the most influential recording artists of the late 20th century - *Circle Game: Reimagining the Music of Joni Mitchell!*

CHILLIWACK, BC – Taking twenty-nine songs from Joni Mitchell's massive discography and reconceptualizing them, *Circle Game: Reimagining the Music of Joni Mitchell* is an endearing take on the musical influence and continued relevance of a Canadian legend. On **March 14**, the *Arts Club on Tour* is bringing the music of Joni Mitchell to Chilliwack, and showing it through the eyes and ears of a new generation.

The “reimagining” of Mitchell’s work comes mainly from co-creator and director, *Andrew Cohen*. His radical rearrangements of Mitchell’s classics give the songs a new sound as he speeds up or slows down the songs, rhythmically altering them and even redistributed the lines amongst multiple voices with innovative harmonies and counterpoints. Co-creator and director Anna Kuman makes his arrangements come to life through her imaginative staging and lively choreography.

“As kids, we would listen to Joni vinyls while our parents would sing along, gleefully off-key, wondering what the fuss was about. Upon hearing her music again as young adults, we realized that the themes and images in her music were unlike anything we had heard before.” Explained Kuman and Cohen.

Nominated for three *Jessie Richardson Awards*, five *Ovation Awards*, and was the winner of the 2018 *Ovation Award* for Outstanding Professional Production and Outstanding Musical Direction, *Circle Game* is something incredibly special and not to be missed.

“As we delved deeper into Ms. Mitchell’s diverse canon and profound words, we became increasingly aware that this music, though written four or five decades previous, was so much more than simply the sounds of our parents’ generation.” Both those familiar and unfamiliar with Mitchell’s work will be able to relate to the words that remain relevant despite the years, as the cast connects her influential music to the politics and world we know today. Kuman and Cohen believe that anyone can enjoy *Circle Game*. “Our hope for both the die-hard Joni fans and those less familiar with her work is that you leave preconceptions at the door and allow yourself to live (or re-live) the messages of her prose in this moment, in 2019, through the mouths of twenty-somethings.”

“We came to view this work as both a window and a mirror. The set, lighting, and wardrobe are predominantly second-hand— reimagined from their original context, much like the music and lyrics,” continue Kuman and Cohen. “They originated before our time, yet we still feel a sense of ownership or stewardship. This experiment was born from the desire to create a piece that would both bridge a generational divide

and posit their unresolved questions in a modern context. Just as Millennials have inherited the problems left to us by earlier generations, so too have we adopted their wisdom, warnings, and witticisms.”

From Mitchell’s iconic “Big Yellow Taxi” to “River” to “California”, *Circle Game* is a heartfelt ode to the entire catalogue of a Canadian icon. Whether you’re a fan or not, it’s a show that’ll leave you feeling closer to the songs that inspired and defined a generation.

Circle Game: Reimagining the Music of Joni Mitchell is coming to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on **March 14** at **7:30 pm**. Tickets in Zone A are \$45 for adults, \$42 for seniors and \$40 for youths. Tickets in Zone B are \$39 and tickets in Zone C are \$29. Tickets can be purchased at the Centre Box Office, online at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca, or by calling 604-391-SHOW(7469).

Circle Game: Reimagining the Music of Joni Mitchell is sponsored by: *Fortins Home Hardware, Myriad, 98.3 Star FM, The Chilliwack Progress, the BC Touring Council, the British Columbia Arts Council, the City of Chilliwack, the Province of British Columbia, and the Department of Canadian Heritage. Circle Game’s* Tour Production Sponsor is: *Sandman Inns*.

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For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the O’Connor Group Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 360,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value close to \$6,000,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts, crafts and performance studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (Charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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