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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Merideth Kaye Clark to Perform Joni Mitchell Album, *Blue* Friday, May 29, in Portland Center Stage's Ellyn Bye Studio



April 30, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. On Friday, May 29 at 9:30 p.m., local singer, songwriter and actress Merideth Kaye Clark will perform the entire album *Blue* in the intimate Ellyn Bye Studio at Portland Center Stage. “This album has influenced me a lot as a singer and a songwriter,” said Merideth Kaye Clark about the idea to perform *Blue*. “I’m excited about performing the entire album, and I hope people will connect to hearing the entire body of work.” Clark will be accompanied by pianist Mont Chris Hubbard, who will also act as musical director. Portland Center Stage’s Producing Associate Brandon Wooley will direct. General admission tickets are \$15 and

can be purchased at pcs.org or 503.445.3700. More information can be found at <http://www.pcs.org/blue/>.

Released in 1971, Joni Mitchell’s album *Blue* is perhaps her most iconic work. *Rolling Stone* wrote that “with *Blue* she has matched her popular music skills with the purity and honesty of what was once called folk music, and through the blend she has given us some of the most beautiful moments in recent popular music.” It marked a pivotal time in her career, inspiring David Crosby to say, “by the time she did *Blue*, she was past me and rushing toward the horizon.”

For many, Joni Mitchell’s album was an inspiration and emotional outlet. Jack Hamilton, writer at *The Atlantic*, recalls one song in particular that stands out to him. Referring to “Case of You” he says, “there’s a moment at the top of its second verse, the one that begins ‘I’m a lonely painter / I live in a box of paints,’ when the entire track seems to suddenly swell and almost burst, a beautiful shock of intensity that recedes almost as soon as it appears. And in that one heart-racing, vanishing instant everything makes sense, because if we can only find our way back to that, that moment, that feeling—to find that would mean to be happy forever.” Similarly, Merideth

Kaye Clark felt a personal connection to the album, saying, “I’ve always had a strong relationship to this music. Every time I return to it I hear something new, and find something new in her poetry.”

PERFORMER: MERIDETH KAYE CLARK

Merideth Kaye Clark is an artist, traveler, musician, songwriter, singer, and actress. Originally from Kansas City, Missouri, Merideth studied Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology at Emory University before earning a Master’s in Musical Theatre at San Diego State University. It was there, in California, where she began her career as a concert artist and musical theater performer. Merideth has since performed major roles in theaters around the country. Highlights include: *Nancy, Oliver!* (Seattle’s 5th Ave); *Cathy, The Last Five Years* (PCS); *Clara, The Light in the Piazza* (Portland Playhouse); *Tzeitl, Fiddler on the Roof* (PCS); *Kate/Lilli, Kiss Me Kate* (Clackamas Rep); *Eva Peron, Evita* (Northern Stage); *Olivia, Twelfth Night* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (The Old Globe); *Amazing Grace* (Goodspeed); *Rose, Meet Me In St. Louis* (Irish Rep). She has participated in numerous developmental readings and has originated roles in two off-Broadway musicals. Merideth performed the role of Elphaba in the First National Tour of the Broadway musical *Wicked* over 150 times in 35 major US cities. Merideth combines her theater work with concerts across the US. She performs in many styles, including contemporary musical theater, classical, Broadway standards, country, bluegrass and folk. Merideth is a multi-instrumentalist and plays anything with strings, most notably the guitar and viola. Her sophomore album *Young Stellar Object* garnered critical praise from New York theater reviewers. Merideth now lives in Portland, Oregon with her incredible husband, beautiful daughter and floppy dog.



MUSIC DIRECTION AND ACCOMPANIMENT: MONT CHRIS HUBBARD

Mont Chris Hubbard is a Portland performer, composer, and music director. He received a 2013 Portland Area Musical Theatre Award for his music direction of the Broadway Rose’s *Little Shop of Horrors*. He has released three CDs of solo piano improvisations, and his band Scotland Barr & The Slow Drags won the 2011 Portland Music Award for Album of the Year for their final offering, *We Will Be Forgotten*. He is the creator and host of Portland’s most endearingly-strange variety show, *The Mont Chris Hubbard Bonus Show*, and hosts a weekly late night piano bar at Mazza’s Club. Find out more at www.montchrishubbard.com.

DIRECTOR: BRANDON WOOLLEY

Brandon is a director, producer and actor in Portland, Oregon. He has directed/produced shows at CoHo Theater

(*International Falls*), Bag&Baggage (*Dial M For Murder*), Third Rail Repertory (*Apple Family Plays Weekend: Sorry and Regular Singing*), Theatre Vertigo (*The End of Sex*), Live On Stage (*4x4=8 Musicals*), and Portland Center Stage (*JAW Kick Off Events 2012-2014*). Brandon has worked with Rose Riordan on multiple shows at PCS as an assistant director (*Lizzie*, *The Whipping Man*, *Red*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *A Christmas Story*, 2010 and 2011). He has also served as assistant director for *Sweet and Sad* (Third Rail Repertory), *Hairspray* (Broadway Rose), and *Spring Awakening* (Live on Stage) in which he portrayed the role of Hanschen. Brandon is the Producing Associate at Portland Center Stage.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: Friday, May 29, 2015

Showtime: 9:30 p.m.

The show will begin after the 7:30 p.m. performance of *The Lion*

Where: In the Ellyn Bye Studio at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#), 128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland.

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/blue/>

To Purchase: General Admission is \$15

Online: <http://www.pcs.org/blue/>

By Phone: 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

In Person: PCS's box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue
12 p.m.–curtain on performance days
12–6 p.m. on non-performance days

Please Note: This performance is recommended for ages 12+.

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. Learn more at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

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[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#) houses the 590-seat U.S. Bank Main Stage and the 190-seat black box Ellyn Bye Studio. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places – and the first performing arts venue – to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006.

[Portland Center Stage's 2014-2015 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Season Sponsors the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Work for Art, Oregonian Media Group and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK FM. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage. Portland Center Stage is a participant in the Audience (R)Evolution Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theater.

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