

MEDIA RELEASE

**KEVIN HEARN NEW ALBUM OUT TODAY
STREAM *CALM AND CENTS* [HERE](#)**

WATCH THE PEACEFUL & HAUNTING VIDEO “GHOST BIRDS” [HERE](#)

**RE-RELEASES SOLO ALBUM CATALOGUE INCLUDING
FIRST DIGITAL RUN OF *THE SUPERHERO SUITE*
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“...one of the greatest artists in Canadian history.” -George Stroumboulopoulos, *The Strombo Show*

(June 14, 2019 - Toronto, ON) – Award-winning multi-instrumentalist **Kevin Hearn** releases his widely-anticipated ninth album today, ***Calm and Cents***, available on vinyl, CD, and digitally via Celery Music. Soothing and serene at times, melancholic at others, but captivating and compelling throughout, stream and purchase *Calm and Cents* [HERE](#). Hearn also re-releases his entire solo catalogue today, which dates back to 1997’s debut *Mothball Mint*, and includes a first time digital release of the sold-out 2019 Record Store Day Canada project *Kevin Hearn & Friends Present: The Superhero Suite*. Purchase [HERE](#).

A new video is available today for “Ghost Birds” directed by Shehab Illyas, made using home footage taken by Hearn’s grandfather and uncle in the 1950s and 60s. “Ghost Birds is both a peaceful and haunting musical reflection on the passage of time. Among the many beautiful layers of sonic texture, there is a manipulated sample of my father, now 86, reading a poem.” Watch [HERE](#).

There is a significant visual component to *Calm and Cents* as evinced by the accompanying videos that bring the music to life. Hearn’s playing effortlessly veers from delicate to devastating, bending stylistic

boundaries through visual storytelling. Directed and animated by Sonia Beckwith Cole, [“The Silent Collapse”](#) explores the extinction of countless species through unique animations based on Hearn’s own drawings. [“The Chemical Valley”](#) is dedicated to the people of Aamjiwnaang First Nation, who have seen their traditional territory in Southern Ontario transform into one of Canada’s most polluted. Directed by Jennifer Bechwail and Nick de Pencier, the video features Martin Tielli (The Rheostatics) on vocals alongside Hearn and Maia Davies (Ladies of the Canyons).

“I wanted to make a record that went outside the pattern of records we’d done in the past – the structured songs with vocals at the forefront,” Hearn explains. “I started realizing that I was connecting with my piano as my voice instead of my actual voice, and wanted the piano to be the focus of these songs.” The self-produced predominantly-instrumental collection on *Calm and Cents* features sprawling soundscapes created and captured at Hearn’s secluded studio in Northern Ontario – half in the winter, half in the spring – with Hugh Marsh (strings), Chris Gartner (bass), JUNO Award-winning producer Gavin Brown (percussion and programming), and a few special guests. “We forged a really strong connection while recording,” he continues, “I love reconnecting with people and continuing musical relationships by taking them to new places. “That’s one of my favourite things about music.”

The stunning album is inspired by our natural world, shifting seamlessly between celebrations of its ethereal beauty and the troubling urgency of what we, as humans, are doing to it. About the theme, he says “I didn’t want to get on a soapbox, necessarily, but rather just relay those feelings through music.”

Hearn’s solo catalogue includes *Mothball Mint* (1997) and *Cloud Maintenance* (2011), *Days in Frames* (2014), and *Kevin Hearn & Friends Present: The Superhero Suite* (2019), as well as albums with his longtime band and collaborators Thinbuckle: *H-Wing* (2011), *Night Light* (2004), *The Miracle Mile* (2006) and *Havana Winter* (2009). The unique assembly on *The Superhero Suite* features a well-known and eclectic cast of close friends and musical heroes performing an array of superhero-inspired songs, including Barenaked Ladies, Violent Femmes, and Colin Hay covering the *Batman* theme from the classic ‘60s TV series. The initial limited-edition vinyl release, from which all the proceeds were donated to MusiCounts to support music education in Canada, sold out nationwide and debuted on the Nielson Chart at Number 7.

“Some of these projects have been in the works for a few years, and it seems the universe just sort of decided that they all needed to come out this year,” Hearn shares – and that doesn’t faze him in the least. He’s also the subject of a documentary *There Are No Fakes* directed by Jamie Kastner, a riveting deep dive into the tragic history of indigenous art forgery and exploitation, for which he composed the score. The worldwide premiere screenings during the Canadian International Documentary Festival in Toronto sold out. Starting today, *There Are No Fakes* will be released in theatres via Mongrel Media across Canada. Check [HERE](#) for local screenings. The documentary will make its Canadian television debut in fall 2019 on TVO and Knowledge Network.

A gifted composer, in-demand collaborator, and ever-active musical force with zero interest in creative stagnancy, Hearn cut his teeth collaborating with the likes of Look People, Corky and the Juice Pigs, and revered art-rock outfit Rheostatics before formally joining Barenaked Ladies in 1995. As the group’s profile swelled in the ensuing years, he explored new sonic ground with a series of innovative and imaginative solo albums. One of the most respected and sought-after Toronto musicians of the past 25 years, Hearn’s projects always attract brilliant collaborators including Ron Sexsmith, Dan Hill, Michael Ray of the Sun Ra Arkestra, Carole Pope, Mary Margaret O’Hara, Alan Doyle, The Persuasions, Violent Femmes, Colin Hay and drummer Rob Kloet (the Nits). One of his most rewarding creative and personal relationships of all was with the legendary Lou Reed, for whom Hearn acted as musical director and keyboardist from 2007 until his passing in 2013. Muses Hearn, “I like connecting with people that have an adventurous musical spirit – who are imaginative and still approach music with a sense of wonder.” Hearn was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 2018 as part of Barenaked Ladies.

Plenty more is underway. Barenaked Ladies are currently on a 44-city “Group Therapy Tour” with Hootie & the Blowfish across North America, stopping in Toronto on August 29 at Budweiser Stage. Hearn lent his talents to the upcoming Rheostatics record, their first studio LP in nearly 15 years; and is in the process of re-staging Gord Downie’s heralded *Secret Path* project, to help maintain Canada’s relationship with its indigenous communities. More information will be released as it becomes available.

Link to high-res KEVIN HEARN PRESS photo: <http://bit.ly/2URbMIs> | **Photo Credit: Matt Barnes**

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Calm and Cents Track List:

1. Temagami
2. Ghost Birds
3. The Silent Collapse
4. Calm and Cents
5. The Chemical Valley
6. Nemophilists
7. The Quiet One
8. The River of Money
9. Alternative Energy
10. Grimsby

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