

The Source

forum of diversity

The Source – www.thelasource.com – Since 1999

Race, culture, and human rights advocacy: a personal commitment

by LILLIAN LIAO

On May 21, private corporations, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations around the world will celebrate the United Nations' (UN) World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

The day celebrates the world's diverse cultures in order to facilitate stronger and more peaceful intercultural exchange. These goals are well-suited for Vancouver, a city that still struggles with racism.

Zehra Talib, the regional coordinator at the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) for British Columbia, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories, has always been keenly aware of the racism that exists, not just in Canada, but internationally.

"We know and understand that racism and racial discrimination exists all across Canada, but I want to understand the specific ways in which it manifests in these regions, the unique challenges and perspectives, and how people are impacted," says Talib.

Just in time for the UN World Day celebrating cultural diversity, Talib notes that on May 12, CRRF, the Canadian Anti-Asian Racism Coalition (CARC)/Coalition Canadienne contre le racism anti-Asiatique (CCRA) and



▲ Zehra Talib.

Media Girlfriends will announce a webinar on media training for those interested in supporting anti-Asian racism initiatives in their respective communities.

CRRF was established in 1996 as part of redress efforts for Canada's racist policies against Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. Designated a Crown Corporation, their work involves upholding the human rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Charter, particularly the right to live freely from discrimination.

Nowadays, CRRF's research, educational, and advocacy work has expanded to other pressing race-based concerns, including systemic anti-Black racism.

A career in human rights advocacy

The desire to understand, the motivation to learn, and the ability to listen are elements of Talib's advocacy that has followed her throughout her career. Having worked with both historic and newer human rights organizations, Talib's advocacy reflects the changing environment of diversity initiatives.

In addition to having worked with Amnesty International, Talib also served as a project coordinator and executive assistant for PeaceGeeks, a non-profit started through grassroots ef-

forts that aims to use technology for peacebuilding initiatives. Talib praises their commitment to creating peaceful and inclusive societies where people who are displaced are not forgotten. Her work there involved initiatives that helped newcomers build professional networks and examined how technology can better support new Canadians.

Since joining CRRF in February, she plans to address systemic racism in Canada through values-driven advocacy.

"CRRF will continue to support organizations to combat racism, promote events and education, and build a more anti-racist society," says Talib, "We are committed to building a national framework for fight against racism in Canadian society and we continue to do this through knowledge-sharing and community support in the pursuit of equity, fairness, social justice, and systemic change."

In B.C., Talib plans to achieve CRRF's goals by supporting local organizations that have been granted funds to carry out anti-racism work.

"This will be done through continuing support to our National Anti-Racism Fund grantees in B.C., Yukon, and Northwest Territories," says Talib, "As we continue to work in these regions,

See "World Day" page 3 ►



Aerosia: a stunning aerial performance
Page 5



In conversation with writers at ExplorAsian
Page 6



Guitar trio – a musical force to be reckoning with
Page 7

Reach the growing FILIPINO COMMUNITY in British Columbia!

Advertise in *Dahong Pilipino*
THE FILIPINO CANADIAN COMMUNITY DIRECTORY
www.dahongpilipino.ca

PRINT • MOBILE • ONLINE

Canadians want universal health care for mental health

by STAFF WRITER

Many Canadians believe the country is experiencing a mental health crisis and the government is not doing enough about it. Every May, since 1951, Canadians – in communities, schools, workplaces, and the House of Commons – have rallied around CMHA Mental Health Week. This year’s theme MY STORY aims to showcase the importance of securing universal mental health care.

“We hear stories from people across the country every day that services are hard to find, and not available to everyone,” says Margaret Eaton, National CEO, CMHA., on the website. MY STORY also shines a spotlight on community mental health care champions and community programs.

Importance of mental health

The Canadian Mental Health Association states mental health is just as important as physical health to live a fully engaged life. But many of the services and supports people need – counseling, psychotherapy, eating disorder treatments, substance use and addictions treatment – aren’t currently covered by public health insurance plans. A recent survey conducted for the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) found almost nine-in-ten agree people living

reach out for help primarily because it is too expensive, or because they didn’t know where to find it. Cost shouldn’t get in the way of care. “Mental health care doesn’t just happen in a doctor’s office or in a hospital. There are community-based mental health services that work together with the medical system, and they need to be properly funded,” says Eaton. Everyone should be able to get the support they need. Universal mental health care would not only reduce overall healthcare and other social costs, but it is essential for well-being in general. According to Eaton, the services must also be easy-to-find, free and available where people live, work and play.

Getting involved, getting the care

Recent research found 87 per cent of Canadians would like access to free, publicly funded mental health care; and 57 per cent would access mental health care through a community organization should a free program be available. Mental Health Week can harness the power of storytelling to help build connections and understanding between each other while strengthening communities. To get involved, people can share their story and support for universal mental health

Save the date!

Réservez la date!

Haitian
FLAG DAY



FÊTE DU DRAPEAU
Haitien

Sunday, May 21st, 2023
1pm - 4pm

Creekside Community Center
1 Athletes Way, Vancouver, BC



Instagram: @chcab
email: info@chca-bc.org



▲ Sharing stories is at the heart of mental health.

in Canada should have access to universal mental health care. “[Valuing the importance] is why mental health services should be fully covered,” says Eaton. According to the survey, 35 per cent of the people, who have experienced a mental health concern in the past year, did not

care using the hashtags #MyStory and #MentalHealthWeek; and learn about different types of mental health supports, and how they can be used to support those in need. Closer to home, B.C.s CMHA Division states that they are currently working diligently behind the scenes and invite people to stay tuned for the 72nd edition of CMHA’s Mental Health Week, May 1, 2023 to May 7, 2023. ✉

For more information visit:
<https://cmha.ca>
<https://victoria.cmha.bc.ca/events/mental-health-week-2023>

INTERNATIONAL
DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN
DESCENT
2015 - 2024

African Descent Festival
2023 At
ENGLISH BAY BEACH
11,12 AND 13TH, AUGUST 2023.





WE MOVED TO
ENGLISH BAY BEACH

Photo courtesy of Canadian Mental Health Association

CANADA POSTES
POST CANADA

Postage paid Port payé
Publications Mail Poste-publications
40047468

THE SOURCE – LA SOURCE MEDIA INC.

THE SOURCE NEWSPAPER

Mailing Address
Denman Place PO Box 47020
Vancouver, BC V6G 3E1

Office
204-825 Granville St., Vancouver, BC

Telephone (604) 682-5545
Email info@thelasource.com
www.thelasource.com

Founding Publisher and Editor-in-Chief
Mamadou Gangué
Senior Editor (English and French Sections)
Monique Kroeger
Art Director Laura R. Copes
Project Consultant & Local Journalism
Initiative Desk Marc Béliveau
Copy Editors (English) Frank Abbott, Deanna Choi,
Melodie Wendel-Cook
Senior Copy Editor (French) Louise T. Dawson
Executive Assistant Kevin Paré
Website Coordinator Pavle Culajevic
Website Sepand Dyanatkar, Vitor Libardi,
Silvia Pascale
Social Media Nathalie Astruc, Sava Rozsnyai

Editorial Content Advisors Denis Bouvier,
Alexandre Gangué
Digital Media Advisor Saeed Dyanatkar
Contributing Editors Nathalie Astruc, Simon Yee
IT Specialist Amir Karimian

Illustrator Joseph Laquerre
Writers Elaha Amani, Hassan Laghcha, Amélie
Lebrun, Lillian Liao, Mambo Masinda, Martina
Petkov, Curtis Seufert, Simon Yee, Robert
Zajtmann

Translation Barry Brisebois, Louise Dawson,
Monique Kroeger
Distribution Joseph Laquerre, Kevin Paré

Photo credits for front cover
Page 5: Photo by Chris Randle
Page 7: Photo courtesy of Caravan Rhythms

LEGALITIES
The Source shall not be liable for slight changes
or typographical errors that do not lessen the
value of an advertisement. The Source’s liability
for other errors or omissions in connection to any
published advertisement is strictly limited to the
repeat of the advertisement in future publications
or for the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement. We welcome appropriate, unsolicited
editorial submissions if accompanied by the author’s real name, address and telephone number.
The author should retain the original as we cannot
return submissions without prior agreement, nor
does submission guarantee publication.

For advertising call: (604) 682-5545

Approaching climate action with a healthy dose of positivity

by MARTINA PETKOV

The only way to effectively tackle climate change and create lasting, sustainable outcomes, is to make sure people feel happy about the actions they are taking says behavioral scientist Jiaying Zhao, PhD, associate professor in UBC's Department of Psychology, the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, and Canada Research Chair.

Eventually, everyone will experience the effects of climate change wherever in the world they live, so she wants to show that climate action and happiness can easily coexist. Much of the current information around climate change is very sensationalist and focuses on catastrophizing the issue, which ultimately could be doing more harm than good. "This is such counter-productive way of portraying climate change," explains Zhao. "While it's true, it is not conducive to behaviour change."

Negative news sells, travels, and spreads faster than positive news. As a result, all this doom and gloom, 'dread narrative' is spreading the message fast. However, it is not eliciting action. It is making people feel

about 'happiness' in relation to climate change. She believes that this is the only way to get people on board and not only ideologically. Shaming, guilt-tripping, and scaring people into action is not going to work. Beyond gain-

is behavioural, specifically the failure to act. Zhao and her colleagues argue for the need for a complete reversal of the current incentive structure, because current infrastructure and policies are set up for failure.

mate action. The basic concept behind 'operant conditioning', Zhao argued, is that a stimulus leads to a behavior, which then leads to a consequence. This type of behaviour conditioning can have both positive

“ We need to reward low-emission behaviours and punish high-emission behaviours.

Jiaying Zhao, PhD

depressed and helpless, which is not conducive to behaviour change or helping people to act. "My goal is to get people to behave in a sustainable way," says Zhao. **The Happy Climate project** Zhao and fellow collaborator, professor Elizabeth Dunn, believe that currently there is a missing narrative. It is unfortunate that people have not talked

ing engagement online, this approach delivers minimal, and even negative effects on behavioural change, and is stopping people from acting. For Zhao, it is important to find a way to make people feel good while they are addressing these significant environmental problems. "This is the only way that can sustain behaviour change," she argues. Zhao believes everyone needs to get other on board so that people feel like they are making a difference and their small actions are having an effect. That means getting friends and family involved and not just making changes in one's own life, but also calling for system change. "Each of us, on an individual basis, can only do so much," she says. "If we put pressure on politicians, by reaching out and voicing our support for climate policy, that will carry more weight and in turn, can start system change."

How to reenforce climate action on a larger scale The toughest challenge facing climate change currently

"We need to reward low-emission behaviours and punish high-emission behaviours," says Zhao. In a recent paper, Zhao and colleagues argue that behavioral interventions have largely neglect-

and negative reinforcers. Zhao and her team believe that positive reinforcers should be used to encourage low-emission behaviors and negative reinforcers should be used to discourage high-emission behaviors across transportation, food, waste, housing, and civic actions. The Happy Climate Approach encourages politicians to re-frame the narrative around climate action. Politicians can advocate for climate policies more effectively by showing that they will benefit the wellbeing of people, make them feel happier, create a better society, and help fight climate change. That must be the new narrative. Zhao's TED talk *How to feng shui your fridge* is available online as well as other happy climate hacks. Zhao has also launched an online Happy Climate workshop. It's easy to do and free to everyone around the world, and can be done individually, or in groups.

For more information, see: www.happyclimate.org



▲ Learning to tackle climate change with a positive attitude



Photo courtesy of Jiaying Zhao

▲ Jiaying Zhao, PhD, associate professor in UBC's Department of Psychology, the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, and Canada Research Chair.

ELLA MAI

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

MAY 15

VANCOUVER

HARBOUR

EVENT & CONVENTION

CENTRE

19+

THE

TOUR

2023

MODOLIVE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.ELLAMAI.COM

HOMESTAND

Black communities miss out on public health benefits that Community Hubs offer

Community and cultural centres play a critical role in public health.

The sports and recreation activities, and the leisure and education programs they offer, give people an opportunity to improve their fitness, live healthier lives and learn new skills. They also serve as a meeting place where individuals can connect with others in their community, reducing loneliness and isolation.

Community centres led by ethno-cultural communities not only offer these benefits, they also provide a safe space for community members to share and preserve their history and culture and obtain culturally appropriate support services, contributing to the community's health and wellbeing.

Yet not all groups have equal access to this type of social infrastructure.

A recent study on public investment in Black infrastructure by the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation (SCCR) and the Infrastructure Institute at the University of Toronto found that neighbourhoods in Toronto with a high proportion of Black residents, particularly

those of Somali origin, lack access to such facilities.

Of the 36 cultural centres the study examined, only five were Black-led and they focused on arts and activism rather than recreational and other programming.

The lack of community centres is made worse by the effects of quickly gentrifying cities that

While efforts are underway by the SCCR to build a Somali-led culture and recreation facility in Toronto, the centre, and others like it, need financial and policy support from all levels of government, including the federal government, if they are to succeed.

The biggest barrier to creating Black-led cultural and com-

The federal government can help remove the cost barrier by making capital funding for Black-led community centre projects a priority in its infrastructure investments.

Besides capital funding, the federal government must prioritize investments in community-led projects that focus on build-

immediate disruption. To ensure that this does not continue to happen to Black-led social infrastructure projects, it is essential that the federal government create a policy and funding structure that clearly identifies and addresses how investments will benefit the community.

A key opportunity exists in the federal government bilateral agreements with provincial governments to provide funding under its Investing in Infrastructure Program. This includes money for eligible cultural, recreational and community infrastructure. However, the agreement the federal government signed with Ontario lacks specific information on how Ottawa will verify whether funded projects actually improve access and quality for the communities.

The government needs to set out the specific criteria it will use to evaluate the projects and how it will determine whether they are truly community-led and in good faith. It must also seek out and support projects that are community-led and include community members in planning and decision-making.

It is time to close the gap in social infrastructure for Black communities and invest in facilities and projects that offer undeniable positive public health benefits.

AMINA MOHAMED is the head of strategic communications for the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation.

For more information visit: <https://quoimedia.com/black-communities-miss-out-on-public-health-benefits-that-community-hubs-offer>

Source: Quoi Media

“ The gap in social infrastructure can and has negatively affected the health and wellbeing of Black communities...

push many Black residents into poorly resourced and underfunded neighbourhoods.

The gap in social infrastructure can and has negatively affected the health and wellbeing of Black communities already burdened with years of systemic discrimination and anti-Black racism that have resulted in higher levels of poverty and poorer health outcomes for many Black Canadians.

community centres is the cost. They are expensive to build, requiring large capital investments. While other ethno-cultural communities have previously funded their centres through donations from community members and by land sales, the legacy of anti-Black racism and discriminatory policies against Black communities mean that there are fewer opportunities for Black communities to raise all the needed funds themselves.

ing multi-purpose centres in neighbourhoods without other social infrastructure. Multi-use facilities in these neighbourhoods would provide a hub where community members and others could take part in recreational and cultural programs and access other social services.

The centres could be a resource for new parents. They could provide a safe space for young people in the neighbourhood to interact with each other and learn new skills. They could connect seniors and newcomers with support services. They present a meaningful opportunity to transform marginalized communities through direct investments in public health through mental health services, family-oriented programming and the promotion of healthy living.

Historically, marginalized groups have been left out of government decision-making processes, leading to outcomes that do not always meet the community's needs. This trend requires



▲ Community centers can be a important resource for new parents.

6 plays

Fraser Valley Zone Theatre Festival 2023

There will be drama and comedy and tragedy and melodrama and... May 21st to 26th, 2023

THEATRE BC

FRASER VALLEY ZONE theatre bc

6 days

Visit The Source Online

www.thelasource.com

Twitter/Facebook: [thelasource](#)

THE ROGUE PRESENTS

Laura Cortese and the Dance Cards

Laura Cortese and the Dance Cards create a stunning, forward-looking sound that charts a path for innovation in folk music. - POPMATTERS.

Saturday, May 27 at 8pm

In-Person and Livestreamed

Mel Lehan Hall at St. James | 3214 West 10th Avenue

www.roguefolk.com

THE LANGHAM Guest Artist Series *presents*

Stephen Fearing
Live in concert

A special evening of music with the multiple Juno-award winning Canadian Folk/Roots Singer-Songwriter. A founding member of Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, Fearing has released ten solo albums over an acclaimed 30+ year career. We are thrilled to bring Stephen back to The Langham!

"Without a shadow of a doubt, one of the best songsmiths on the planet." - BBC UK

Saturday May 13th, 7pm
Langham Theatre - Tickets \$25 Sunnyside or Willow

Thanks to our Platinum & Gold corporate sponsors and funders
Rhonda Ruston * Pennywise * Kootenay Co-op * Front Street Market
Enmark Ventures * Honey Candles * Kul Nijjar

SEAFOOD BBQ & LIVE MUSIC

BOAT TO TAILGATE

May 27th, 5:30-9pm



Tickets
Buy at: bit.ly/3V6d4VG
60\$ adults (16+), 25\$ kids (6+)
Drink tickets available at event
(Bring your ID).

Location
Naas Foods - 630 Campbell St, Tofino, BC
Limited parking. Walk/bike to event.
Shuttle available back to Ukeë.

PRESENTED BY TOFINO'S FISHING CHARTER FLEET & REDD FISH RESTORATION
Proceeds support Redd Fish Restoration, Tofino Enhancement Society & Cedar Coast

Need the skills to find a job? We can help!

Design a fantastic resume and cover letter, fine tune your interview techniques, learn valuable skills to succeed in the Canadian workplace, gain insight into the job market, access special services for skilled works – all at NO COST. The Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society, Vancouver Branch, has been helping immigrants and newcomers to Canada for over 14 years!

Our Group Job Search Workshops are a flexible, 5 module rotating program, running weekly, with 16 sessions each month. This includes basic computer orientation, with instruction on using Word and Excel, and accessing the Internet. Workshops are held within a culturally diverse environment, led by qualified facilitators.

Past and current E.I. recipients are always welcome. Knowledgeable case managers are available to guide you through the process of reaching your career goals.

PICS Vancouver also offers one-on-one employment assistance, paid on-the-job work experience through our Wage Subsidy program, and a one-stop Career Centre with a broad range of job hunting resources. Funding for all programs is provided by the Ministry of Social Development, Employment and Labour Market Services Division.

**Please call 604-324-7733, go to www.pics.bc.ca,
or visit us at 200-8161 Main St., Vancouver,
to find out how we can best help you.**



Aerosia, a feat of vertical dance performance

by ELAHA AMANI

Artistic director Julia Taffe's Vancouver-based Aeriosa Dance Society merges elements of vertical dance and rock climbing in the theatrical work *New Artists and Approaches in Vertical Dance*, part of Scotiabank Dance Society's Discover Dance! Series.

This noon-hour show on May 18 at the Scotiabank Dance Centre features Landon Krentz, Deaf ASL Theatre performer, and dance group Butterflies in Spirit which uses hip hop as well as contemporary and traditional First Nations dances to raise awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people.

Aeriosa performs its work on stage and on the outside of tall buildings, utilizing the walls, ledges, rooftops, and open sky of the architectural setting. The troupe's eight members and four riggers use the same ropes and harnesses climbers use when descending/ascending mountains, the suspended performers appearing as if they have taken flight.

A multidisciplinary artistic path

Taffe is a choreographer, performer, co-producer, rock climber and mountain safety rigger. She has studied dance with companies and schools, such as Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Winnipeg School of Contemporary Dance, and Toronto Dance Theatre. As a performer, she is the recipient of the Mountain Culture Hero Award. Aeriosa Dance Society won a Creation Award from BC's Art Partners for their interdisciplinary work *Inu Situ*.

Aeriosa originated when Taffe filmed her love of dancing on the sides of mountains she had climbed.

In 2001, to bring her work to wider audiences, Taffe collaborated with B.C. dancers Scott Buffett, Abby Watkins, and Michael Flynn to create a vertical dance performance for the Scotiabank Dance Centre.

Vertical dance then rapidly gained popularity and sparked interest from dance communities.

▲ *From stage to rooftops Aerosia's diverse performers explore new challenges.*


During the next couple of years, Taffe received commissions from Banff Centre, Cirque du Soleil Headquarters, Taipei's City Hall, and others to create performances. In 2005, Taffe registered Aeriosa Dance Society as a not-for-profit, and in 2009 it became a registered charity, providing not only public access to free and low-cost dance programming, but also specialized training in the dance form for artists and technicians.

In 2011, Taffe brought her dance to the west coast of Vancouver Island, where Aeriosa organized the first annual Tofino Tree Festival. This week-long event, usually in late May, celebrates the cultural and environmental importance of the trees, forests, and nature. It is full of free public performances and nature-centered events.

Core values

Aeriosa Dance Society's main values include collaborative cre-

activity, mentorship and community, and cultural diversity. Taffe strives to create an environment where artists of all backgrounds can comfortably share and develop their ideas, and in turn contribute to the diversity of vertical dance. The company has both urban (Vancouver) and rural (Ucluelet/Tofino) home bases, exposing vertical dance to a wider, more diverse community. They also aim to uplift and support other dancers, especially dance artists from racialized or underrepresented communities.

"We are listening and learning. We are committed to increasing representation of equity-deserving people within our organization, and are excited to continue nurturing cultural diversity in our field of practice," Taffe stresses on the website. 

For tickets and more
information, please visit:
[www.thedancecentre.ca/event/
aeriosa](http://www.thedancecentre.ca/event/aeriosa)


needs at home, but the struggles of people around the world.

"Growing up in an immigrant household, the news was always on in the background, and I'd always overhear conversations about what was going on in the world," says Talib. "This heavily shaped my mind because I saw disparities in how I got to live, and how others around the world were living."

Rather than turning away from this difficult realization, Talib saw her awareness as an obligation to serve those in unsafe situations.

"There was a sense of guilt when I looked at the privileges I was granted living in Canada and compared it to my family still living back in Iraq in a conflict zone," says Talib, "While I still didn't fully understand why I was given this and others not, I knew I had to do something to merge this gap."

For those wishing to get involved in human rights advocacy, Talib suggests cultivating an open and curious attitude, learning from written sources but also getting involved with their communities through attending conferences or participating in volunteer work. For Talib, it is, after all, the skills of listening compassionately and speaking out fearlessly that are crucial to social justice work.

"Listen to those directly impacted by the issues, listen to those voices that can be drowned out, and advocate for them when you can," says Talib, "So much injustice and violations continue to happen because they happen in the dark – we must speak out." 

For more information, please
see www.crrf-fcrr.ca/en

For more information on
PeaceGeeks, please see
www.peacegeeks.org.

Photo courtesy of BC Chinese Music Association



▲ BC Chinese Orchestra.

ExplorAsian – books, conversation and music

by STAFF WRITER

Dishonesty, dark humor, deadly consequences...The thin line between representation and exploitation is the theme explored in Rebecca F. Kuang's latest book *Yellowface*.

Kuang, a Chinese-American fantasy writer will join the Vancouver Writers Fest, Massy Books, and SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs on May 22 with her upcoming literary thriller, *Yellowface* (HarperCollins Publishers, 2023) – a timely and cutting satire that investigates racism in the publishing industry and beyond, with razor-sharp precision.

Thriller twist

A tale of identity theft and its dire consequences, *Yellowface* tells the alarming yet humorous story of authors June Hayward and Athena Liu who were supposed to be twin rising stars. While Athena Liu has become a literary darling, June Hayward is just a nobody: Who wants stories about basic white girls?

When she witnesses Liu's death in a freak accident, Hayward acts without thinking and decides to steal Liu's just-finished masterpiece: an experi-

Awards, and *The Rebellious Tide*, a finalist for the Ferro-Grumley Award. In 2021, he was named a Rising Star by Writers' Trust of Canada. His short stories can be found in *Joyland*, *Yolk*, *Gertrude Press*, *The G&LR*, and two anthologies. He lives with his husband in Vancouver where, while listening to the language of birds from his balcony, he's currently writing his next novel.

Books will be for sale at the event courtesy of Massy Books. People who attend the talk can also order a book at a discounted rate. The pre-sale will be limited to two copies per purchase, and books can be picked up at the event. R. F. Kuang will be signing books after the event.

And a bit of music

This year, the BC Chinese Orchestra is collaborating with the Grand Ensemble Chorus to present a concert on May 20 at the Gateway Theatre titled *Spring Blooms Memories of Old*. The concert features a mix of traditional and contemporary repertoire. The evening will begin with a rousing arrangement of *Dance of the Golden Snake* (*Jin-she Kuangwu*) a traditional piece based on a *qupai* tune called *Lao-hua Liuban* and will end with a tribute to pop legend, Theresa Teng. In the medley, *Memories of the Colour Blue* (*Lanse de Sinian*), the audience will have an opportunity to sing along with the orchestra on famous tunes such as *The Moon Represents my Heart*

Photo courtesy of Rebecca F. Kuang



▲ Rebecca F. Kuang.

mental novel about the unsung contributions of Chinese laborers during World War I.

She then publishes it under her own name; or rather, her new identity as Juniper Song, complete with an equivocal ethnic author photo. But as damning evidence emerges, Hayward, who is not an Asian American, must race to escape the deadly consequences, and keep what she believes she deserves.

Kuang will speak with Eddy Boudel Tan, a Writers' Trust of Canada's Rising Star, about cultural appropriation, the erasure of Asian-American voices, and her own literary career.

Tan, the author of two novels: *After Elias*, a finalist for the Edmund White Award and the ReLit

Photo courtesy of Eddy Boudel Tan



▲ Eddy Boudel Tan.

(*Yueliang daibiao wode Xin*) and *The Story of A Small Town* (*Xiao-cheng gushi*), and much more. The concert also features *Memories of Childhood* (*Tongniang de Huiyi*) by famous Taiwanese composer Lianghui Lu and world premieres of two choral-orchestra arrangements by Maggie Lu: *Chrysanthemum Stage* (*Juhua Tai*) and *Praise to the Pear Blossom* (*Lihua Song*). &

For more information visit: <https://explorasian.org>

MARKET
MOTHER'S DAY

by
PORTOBELLO WEST

SATURDAY, MAY 13
10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

WEST VANCOUVER COMMUNITY CENTRE

FREE ADMISSION

This event is presented in partnership with Portobello West.

westvancouver.ca/eventsandtrips

enhance WEST VAN westvancouver

PORTOBELLO WEST

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB PRESENTS

Blues & Roots CD Release Concert!

LJ Mounteney & her All-Star Band

Friday, May 12 at 8pm
Live in the Hall and Livestreamed
Mel Lehan Hall at St. James
3214 West 10th Ave in Kitsilano

www.roguefolk.com

Rogue Folk Canada CO-OP RADIO BRITISH COLUMBIA The Best Place on Earth

f t i

A dynamic celebration of the music of Ennio Morricone

by CURTIS SEUFERT

The guitar’s musical flexibility offers new experimental compositions, says Marc Morin, guitarist for Montreal Guitar Trio (MG3). Celebrating its 25th anniversary, MG3 brings a virtuosic, energetic groove at Victoria’s Hermann’s Upstairs on May 16.

“The interesting thing with the guitar is that it’s not just one instrument,” says Morin.

While it’s often a lot of effort to learn an entirely new mix of guitar styles, Morin says the result is akin to being able to play a new instrument entirely.

“Classical guitar has its own way to play, but so has flamenco guitar, rock guitar, they’re all different instruments,” he says.

Changes over time

The music has changed plenty in the 25 years since MG3 first came together, even if their ethos has remained the same. In the late 90’s, the original trio was composed of three guitarists, each with a classical guitar background, and each with a desire to explore beyond it.

With performances and recordings that incorporate jazz, flamenco, tango and spaghetti western music, as well as music from Brazil, India and eastern Europe, Morin says MG3 has always been about exploring all kinds of music without holding back.

“We didn’t know at the time really what we were doing because



▲ MG3 is all about exploring music genres without holding back.

we didn’t have a path. We didn’t follow someone’s path... But we discovered with time that it was our sound we developed that tied everything together,” he adds. “It gave us what we needed as individual musicians, which is to not be restrained in only one music style.”

Another thing that has changed is the composition of the group itself. Following the departure of Sébastien Dufour, a founding member of the trio for 24 years, Morin and fellow MG3 member Glenn Lévesque hoped to find someone who could fill that void in.

While such a replacement would usually be no easy feat, it would be another Sébastien, surname Deshaies, that Morin says

has been able to fit in seamlessly.

“We made a short list and we called number one. We didn’t know that much at the time. And [Deshaies] happens to be born to do that,” says Morin. “He’s happy to play with us, we’re really happy, and Sébastien [Dufour] is where he wants to be, and it’s like perfect.”

A love for Morricone

While many of MG3’s genres and worldly influences have come and gone over the years, one thing that has remained is a love for the music of Ennio Morricone. While the famed Italian composer wrote hundreds of film scores over his decades-long career, he’s best known for his work for the classic spaghetti

westerns of the 60’s like *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*.

“We are playing [it] now more than ever,” says Morin. “I think it’s music that is addictive.”

Morin says it’s been inspiring to see a younger generation of fans take to the exciting, iconic composer. Before Morricone’s death in 2020, he had been composing even for recent popular films, such as Quentin Tarantino’s *The Hateful Eight*.

And while Morricone is just one part of a typical MG3 concert – although that one part is often a 15-minute suite of the composer’s music – Morin is always eager to see how the audience reacts with recognition.

“I always tell people, if you know Ennio Morricone you’re

probably very excited hearing his music,” he says. “But if you don’t know about him, maybe you actually do know about him.”

Audiences aside, Morin notes that performing Morricone is a joy that has stood the test of time for MG3 themselves, throughout all these 25 years.

“Still today, we sit on stage and we look at each other when we’re going to start, for example, the music of [The Sicilian Clan], and we have those smiles like kids,” he says. “It’s like I can’t wait to play it again.”

For more information on the concert, visit www.caravanbc.com/events/montreal-guitar-trio-2

For more on MG3, visit www.mg3.ca



explorAsian
May 2023

Join us from May 1 - 31, 2023 to celebrate Asian Heritage Month as we showcase pan-Asian Canadian arts and culture, with local communities. Be sure to visit www.explorasian.org for the upcoming online program!

V A H M S
VANCOUVER
ASIAN HERITAGE
MONTH SOCIETY



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



CITY OF
VANCOUVER
Cultural
Services

980 CKNW



May 9–30, 2023

Cultural Calendar

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Spring is in full swing, the weather is warming up and the city of Vancouver is buzzing with cultural events and festivals that are sure to delight and inspire you. May is the perfect time to explore the rich and diverse cultural scene of this amazing city. From theatre to dance, music to visual arts, there's something for everyone. Discover the vibrant local arts scene by attending some of the gallery openings, art exhibitions and artist talks I've mentioned below. Or immerse yourself in the world of music and dance by attending one of the many festivals that are taking place throughout the month. Have a fantastic Mother's Day, a relaxing Victoria Day weekend and a great month of May!

Abraham Oghobase: Life of Mine
May 5–July 30
www.thepolygon.ca/exhibition/abraham-oghobase-life-of-mine

Across the globe, resource extraction has driven colonial agendas by transforming long-standing relationships to land, to labour, and to the body. The work of Nigerian-born artist Abraham O. Oghobase meditates on the legacies of mining across Africa, as well as the resulting displacements and migrations of people. His visual montages lift schematic diagrams of metal-refining processes from A Text-book of Rand Metallurgical Practice, a handbook published in 1912 that heavily informed early extractive industries in South Africa and elsewhere. Presenting these drawings outside of their original context, and super-imposing them upon images of his own body, Oghobase studies the mechanisms of colonial exploitation while also visually disassembling them. Check out the Polygon Gallery's website for more information on this exhibit.

Magnificent Bird
May 11, 7 p.m.
www.musiconmain.ca/event/gabriel-kahanes-magnificent-bird-2

Gabriel Kahane's latest album *Magnificent Bird* chronicles the final month of a year spent off the internet. It's filled with gorgeous and intimate musical snapshots that have been described by the San Francisco Chronicle as "glistering and magical." Get lost in the moving songs of grief, nostalgia, shame and salvation. It's a look into daily life amidst the chaos of the 21st century, a musical insight into the world today. For this Vancouver performance, the Capilano String Quartet joins Gabriel on the ANNEX stage. When Gabriel returns to Music on Main as Artist in Residence, it's a rare chance to hear two amazing concerts: *Book of Travelers* (May 10) and *Magnificent Bird* both explore moments in life that are at times heart wrenching and full of hope.

The Turning: Chor Leoni & The Leonids
May 11, 7:30 p.m.
www.chorleoni.org/event/the-turning

The Leonids return to Vancouver with one of the most innovative,



▲ Layers of lies are peeled off in *Catfish*.

evocative and transformational musical events of the season. Performing independently as well as alongside Chor Leoni and its Emerging Choral Artist Program, these choral luminaries will take your breath away and touch your heart with their world-class voices and rich harmonies. Check out the Chor Leoni website for tickets and more information.

Transmissions
May 13–July 23
www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca

Within the spun fibres of yarn, the warp and weft of a weaving, the blocks of a quilt and the bond of indigo dye to fabric, textiles hold boundless knowledge, transmitted over generations. The exhibited artists draw on complex histories and rich cultural and personal practices connected to textiles to build sculptural works that move away from the gallery wall. Their techniques span weaving, dyeing, knotting and casting, among other processes. The artworks, created from a variety of organic and manufactured materials – from animal fibres and plant material to wire, rubber silicone and plastic – fill the gallery from floor to ceiling. The works' relation to the body, three-dimensional space and evolving technologies stitch together the varied artworks presented in *Transmissions*.

Festival of Israeli Culture
May 14, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
www.jccgv.com/festival-of-israeli-culture-3

Join the community at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver to celebrate Israeli Culture with Israeli food, music, art, wine tasting, cocktails and much more. Share in the vibrant traditions of Israel during the festival. For more information, check out the JCCGV website.

IGNITE!
May 17–20
<https://thecultch.com/event/ignite-festival-2023>

The Cultch's Youth Panel are thrilled to announce that this year's IGNITE! Festival will be taking over The Cultch's Historic Theatre – with youth-led programming and new work by local emerging playwrights and multidisciplinary artists – from May 17–20, 2023. IGNITE! is an eclectic festival, programmed and curated entirely by members of the Youth Panel at the Cultch. It features theatre performers, filmmakers, writers, poets, dancers, musicians, visual artists, drag performers and more – all aged

13–30 – as well as participants from the Cultch's Youth Program Mentorship Programs. Celebrating its 21st Anniversary, the festival also includes the production of three One Act Plays by local emerging playwrights and a Visual Arts exhibition.

Making Space: Asian Heritage Month
May 18, 6–8:30 p.m.
www.museumofvancouver.ca/making-space-asian-heritage-month

From 2020–2023, the Museum of Vancouver had the privilege of hosting the exhibition *A Seat at the Table*. Now travelling to Cumberland, B.C. and launching in summer 2023, this exhibition celebrates Chinese Canadian Heritage identities and experi-

ences through the lens of food and restaurant culture. In this "Making Space" event, the Museum asks what they have learned from the exhibition, and how they can continue to work with Asian Canadian Communities in the future. In the context of curatorial practices and beyond, how can cultural institutions intentionally make space for the responsibilities and reciprocities of representation? Join them in learning from four individuals and activists who are working for their communities in mindful and intersectional ways through cultural food justice. For registration and more information, check out the museum's website.

Cloverdale: Rodeo & Country Fair
May 19–22
www.cloverdalerodeo.com

The Cloverdale Rodeo will host 96 of the world's best cowboys and cowgirls in an unique Invitational Rodeo Format that ensures the sports premier athletes are showcased throughout five Rodeo performances. For 2023, the Cloverdale Invitational Rodeo will feature Roughstock Rodeo Events (Bareback, Saddle Bronc, Bull Riding) & Ladies Barrel Racing. Twenty-four rodeo contestants compete in each of the rodeo events. For a complete list of events and happenings at the fair, check out their website.

Fort Langley's 101st Annual May Day Parade
May 22, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
www.maydayfortlangley.com

The Fort Langley Lion's are excited to host the May Day Parade followed by a Family Fun Festival in the Park. This free community event was established in 1922. It brings together local musical talent, community members & vendors to the Fort. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, umbrellas (rain or shine) + good spirits to Fort Langley where you will enjoy all that their beautiful town and May Day parade have to offer. Check out their website for an events timeline and list of activities.

Catfish
May 24, 26, 31, June 1
www.alleytheatre.ca/productions/catfish

Upintheair Theatre and Alley Theatre will present *Catfish*, happening on various dates between May 24 to June 1. Take the plunge into Michelle's layers of lies as she misrepresents herself online and uses her hearing friend's voice to entice the new guy at school. From the depths of her deception, Michelle must turn her search for love and acceptance inward. Join her in this vibrant and delightfully earnest exploration of identity and self-love.

Hermann's Upstairs Presents

THE DISCO PARTY OF THE SUMMER

TIGHT HOIR

\$25 SAT AUG 05, 2023 9:00 PM
753 VIEW ST 2 FLOOR, VICTORIA, BC