

The Source

forum of diversity

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Photo courtesy of Burnaby Blues + Roots Festival

Reviving connection through summer music festivals

by LILLIAN LIAO

With Early Music Vancouver’s (EMV) Summer Festival, Burnaby Blues + Roots Festival, and the Surrey Fusion Festival among others, the summer is looking rather musical.

From explorations of past times to celebrations of multiculturalism, these three music festivals offer more than just captivating tunes – they also welcome new ways for fostering the sounds of diversity.

Rediscovering women in early music

Guided by the theme of WOMEN-inSIGHT, EMV’s Summer Festival,

which runs from July 27 to Aug. 5, showcases the overlooked contributions of early women musicians. The Queen of Carthage, a contemporary and baroque retelling of Dido’s triumphs through music and dance, will open the festival on July 27 at SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts. Women’s revolutionary roles in history will also be explored in Our City of Ladies with music inspired by Christine de Pizan’s (b. 1364) creation of an imagined city that valorizes women’s rights and education.

“Music can help connect cultures because it’s something you can share. You don’t have to understand everything – it’s a great communicative tool,”

says Suzie LeBlanc, Artistic and Executive Director of EMV.

LeBlanc first encountered Pizan’s works, which inspired this festival’s theme, during the pandemic and was moved by her commitment to women’s empowerment. For LeBlanc, early music can trace humanity’s narrative – both the stories of the past and the stories yet to come.

“If you know where you are coming from, the values of those people that came before you, you can decide where you want to go in your life,” says LeBlanc. “Instruments tell the stories of all the connections between cultures that happened.”

EMV’s performances will draw from the Italian renaissance,

Louis XIV’s French court, and 18th century German music. Milton in Love, which takes place on Aug. 3 at Pyatt Hall, is an interdisciplinary performance that explores this 17th century poet’s appreciation of a singer through music and film. For LeBlanc, the hope is that previously forgotten women from history can be remembered while attendees can discover early music for themselves.

Celebrating Burnaby through blues and roots music

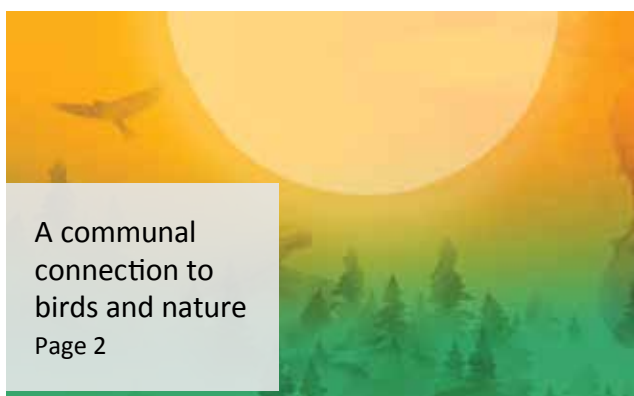
First conceived of in 2000, Burnaby Blues + Roots Festival 2023 takes place on Aug. 12 at Deer Lake Park. With a star-studded line-up that includes Buffy

Sainte-Marie and Allison Russell, the festival aims to reflect Burnaby’s cultural diversity while celebrating blues and roots music with free admissions.

“One of the things we’ve been actively looking at is ensuring that the lineup does reflect back the society and culture we live in to ensure we have BIPOC population and women up on the stages,” says Lois Dawson, Special Events Officer for the City of Burnaby.

Along with Sainte-Marie and Russell, the Trade-Offs, whose lyrics include both English and Inuktitut, will also be performing. The Dip, a Seattle-based band, Boy Golden, and an up-

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2023 TAIWANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

JUNE 30 - JULY 8

DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER

Meet the participants of Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders 2023

In order to mark National Indigenous History Month in June, eight inspiring young Indigenous leaders from across Canada have been invited to meet with the Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples.

The youth have been selected for Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders 2023, which spotlights young Indigenous people aged 18 to 35 who are making a difference in their communities.

The theme of this year's event is Indigenous education. The committee wants to hear how Indigenous youth have experienced education in all forms, including public and private, traditional and non-traditional Indigenous education and post-secondary institutions.

This year's youth leaders testified before the Senate committee on June 7, 2023.

Read more about this year's Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders participants.

Audrey-Lise Rock-Hervieux (Quebec)



From the Innu community of Pessamit, Audrey-Lise Rock-Hervieux is the creator of the blog Native Mom. She also works for Puamun Meshkenu, a non-profit organization that supports Indigenous youth, and film production company Terre Innu. She credits both her employers for opening doors and helping her to grow. She hopes that she can use her voice to inspire youth to believe in their abilities and to fully express themselves.

Bertram Bernard (Nova Scotia)



Muin Ji'j, or Bertram Bernard, is a Mi'kmaq business researcher and professional from Eskasoni First Nation. He completed a Master of Business Administration degree at Cape Breton University, where he focused his research thesis on improving the socio-economic wellbeing of Indigenous people in Canada. In 2019, Mr. Bernard was accepted into the Harvard School of Business's Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities certification program. His goal is to become the first

Mi'kmaq person to graduate from the Executive Doctorate of Business Administration program. He hopes that he can use his education to help Mi'kmaq communities and mentor youth who wish to follow the same path.

Chante Speidel (Saskatchewan)



Chante Speidel is Swampy Cree from the Treaty Four territory in Sapotawayak Cree Nation. She's also Hunkpapa Lakota from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. She currently lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and studies at the University of Saskatchewan. She prides herself on youth advocacy and leadership. She became a national leader in 2017 at age 15 as the youth ambassador for the Manito Ahbee Festival to raise awareness for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Since then, she has had the opportunity to grow and develop as a leader and public speaker across the country. She is also the youth advisor for the Oyateki Partnership and she manages her own youth-led organization named Techa Oaye.

Dina Koonoo (Nunavut)



Dina Koonoo is manager of the early years program for Pirurvik Preschool – an early childhood education centre that blends Inuit and Montessori methods – in Pond Inlet. As part of her role, she facilitates the support of mothers, fathers, infants, toddlers, preschoolers and families. She credits the preschool's founders, Tessa Lochhead and Karen Nutarak, and her husband as her main sources of inspiration. Ms. Koonoo loves working with women and children in her community.

Dylan Adam (British Columbia)



Dylan Adam is Métis from Princeton. For the past five years, he has served as the youth representative for the Vermillion Forks Métis Association. In this role, he has helped organize community events and worked to promote Métis culture. Mr. Adam is currently a full-time student at the University of British Columbia Okanagan

where he is pursuing a degree in political science.

Helaina Moses (Yukon)



Helaina Moses – whose traditional name is Hqzhá, which means "smart one" – is a 27-year-old member of the Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation in Mayo. Her grandparents raised her to be an environmentalist and she now has nine years of environmental science experience. Her grandfather taught her how to hunt, trap and fish, which were skills he learned at a young age because he did not have access to grocery stores or highways. Ms. Moses ran for her local council because she believes her government needs young, strong voices advocating for change. She is passionate about the environment, and she describes herself as a land healer and natural leader.

Katherine Merrell-Anderson (Alberta)



Katherine Merrell-Anderson is Métis from Elizabeth Métis Settlement. She's currently based in Edmonton, or Treaty 6 territory, where she supports youth in a school district as a social worker. She works to ensure that her students have a safe environment to connect to their culture. She hopes to help her students envision possibilities where they are empowered to influence change for future generations.

Paula MacDonald (Ontario)



Paula MacDonald is a Saulteaux-Cree Deaf woman and member of Pasqua First Nation in Saskatchewan who currently lives in Ottawa. She's a new advocate for the Indigenous Deaf youth community across Canada. She volunteers for the Deaf Indigenous of Canada committee and attends several talking circles with Indigenous organizations to share the voices of Indigenous Deaf youth. Her long-term goal is to continue working with people from Indigenous Deaf communities to improve accessibility and provide expanded resources for the home, school, community and health-care sectors.

Source: Senate of Canada



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

Office
204-825 Granville St., Vancouver, BC

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

www.thelastsource.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**
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Editorial Content Advisors **Denis Bouvier, Alexandre Gangué**
Digital Media Advisor **Saeed Dyanatkar**
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IT Specialist **Amir Karimian**

Illustrator **Joseph Laquerre**
Writers **Nathalie Astruc, Marc Béliveau, Marie-Paule Berthiaume, Alois Gallet, Hassan Laghcha, Amélie Lebrun, Cynthia Le Taillanter-Dos Santos, Lillian Liao, Luc Mvono, Lin Weaver, Simon Yee, Robert Zajtmann**

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

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Page 5: Parviz Tanavoli, Poet in Love with Bird, 1961, bronze on wood base, Collection of Grey Art Gallery, NYU, Gift of Abby Weed Grey. Photo by Kevin Noble and courtesy Grey Art Gallery, NYU
Page 7: Photo courtesy of Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival

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The power of community – Language support for displaced Ukrainian children

by LUC MVONO

When then-Simon Fraser University (SFU) student Saba Fatemi and her peers won the 2019 SFU Student Community Engagement Competition with their “CommuniCreate” initiative – a program for refugee and newcomer children pre-pandemic – she didn’t specifically have Ukrainian children in mind.

“My university peers and I learned that newcomer youth were a growing demographic in British Columbia [facing] unique challenges with language barriers, trauma, and a lack of community connections,” Fatemi recalls. “We entered the SFU Student-

Community Engagement Competition with the idea for a program where immigrants and refugee youth could get involved with their communities, feel a sense of belonging, and improve their English through a fun and engaging youth-centered curriculum and we were lucky enough to be one of the winners of this competition, which started a great journey and adventure for all of us.”

What began as a student-led idea with a single community partner has grown into a multi-organization joint effort to support and integrate the children of the families displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine who have found refuge in the Lower Mainland.

Building Community

Through the 8-week program, newcomer children from Ukraine in grades 4-7 gather to learn English and build community with one another and volunteer mentors from the SFU Community.

The English Language Support program is organized by the SFU Surrey – TD Community Engagement Centre in partnership with DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society, Surrey Libraries, and United Way British Columbia.

“Partnerships are extremely important for us at the SFU Surrey – TD Community Engagement Centre,” explains Rachel

Nelson, the Centre’s Associate Director of Partnerships and Programs. “It’s just an essential part of our process. We just really believe in the power of bringing together our collective resources and capacity to make a difference.”

aged children, and community partnerships, the SFU Surrey – TD Community Engagement Centre was able to respond to the call.

“We approached one of our past CommuniCreate program supervisors to lead this program;

up as they go along. We have a volunteer survey that gets filled out each week to debrief what happened in each session. You can see from the responses that the participants are building relationships with each other, with the volunteers, they’re

“ We focused on creating an enjoyable experience for the children where they could express themselves...

Saba Fatemi, Program Manager, SFU Surrey – TD Community Engagement Centre



▲ Saba Fatemi, program manager, civic and community engagement.

Photo courtesy of SFU

As a result of the 2020 pandemic restrictions, the “CommuniCreate” program was delivered online until its current, in-person iteration was conceived in response to United Way British Columbia’s “United for Ukraine” call for proposals. Now it can be delivered in-person. United Way’s “United for Ukraine” initiative was created to assist the integration of displaced Ukrainian people into local communities with a special focus on programs offering connection, fun, and support for young Ukrainians adjusting to a new language and culture.

Connections in a safe environment

With experience in providing educational support to school-

as well, she’s an SFU student,” explains Fatemi, who is now a Program Manager at the Centre. “Together, we [asked ourselves] ‘What’s the real focus of this program?’ We decided that relationships, connections were our priority number one and creating a safe environment would be our main priority for this program. So, we focused on creating an enjoyable experience for the children where they could express themselves, be creative, gain confidence, and feel heard.”

The program’s first session ran from May 9 to June 27, serving 13 children at the City Centre branch, and was by all accounts a success.

“It’s been really positive!” says Nelson. “The kids seem to be enjoying the program and opening

having fun. A lot of the curriculum is almost play-based: lots of games and interactive activities. They’re having fun and learning new things at the same time.”

“[Our kids] like these meetings a lot and are passionately waiting for every next one,” a family member of a participant said of the programs. “They have got new friends thanks to this language program.”

The registrations for the next session – which will run from Oct. 21 to Dec. 9, 2023 – are currently open.

For more information visit: www.sfu.ca/cec/programs-events/active-programs/English-support www.surreylibraries.ca/events/english-language-support-ukrainian-children



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Photo courtesy of Quoi Media



Missing for those who need it most: Canada's financial help gap

When Canadians have a financial problem, want to make a financial plan or need help with their taxes, most simply reach out to their financial institution, advisor, accountant or commercial tax preparer for the help they need.

But who do low-income individuals turn to?

A new report by Prosper Canada reveals that people with low incomes face a gap in the marketplace when it comes to affordable, appropriate and trustworthy financial help services that meet their needs – needs that are often quite different than those of other Canadians.

Prepared in collaboration with commercial and community financial service providers and research from the Financial Resilience Institute, our study reveals that there is rarely a compelling business case for businesses to design and market financial help services to people with low incomes who generate less revenue than wealthier customers.

As a result, mainstream financial help services are generally not tailored to meet the needs of people with low incomes and service

providers often lack the contextual knowledge to give appropriate and trustworthy help to these customers. For example, saving in an RRSP versus a TFSA also inevitably leads to costly clawbacks of seniors benefits once people with low incomes retire, but not all banks routinely ensure they are selling low-income customers the right savings product.

Free tax filing help is available through community tax clinics, but only during tax season and

for those with simple tax situations. People with low incomes who need help at other times of the year are self-employed or have complex tax situations and generally have to pay a commercial tax preparer for qualified help. Free, year-round help to sort out tax problems or navigate complex income benefit programs, is not available in most communities.

Nonprofit credit counseling services can provide free or low-cost help with problem debt but are tenuously funded and not available in many communities.

While financial institutions offer basic financial help for free (e.g., budgeting and saving apps and help selecting an appropriate account or credit product), more in-depth financial planning help is only available to clients with significant assets and investments. Other financial planners are paid in investment commissions or on a fee-for-advice basis making them largely inaccessible to people with low incomes.

Lack of trust is also barrier. People with low incomes generally have lower trust levels. Consequently, they are less likely than people with more means

to trust financial professionals. Low-income individuals who are racialized or Indigenous, 2SLGBTQI+, or have a disability, have the least trust in financial professionals, compounded by concerns about discrimination, leaving them less likely to seek professional financial advice.

So where does this leave people with low incomes?

Access to relevant, high quality, financial help and advice is associated with greater financial health but, until we address this market gap, Canadians with low incomes will struggle to find the help they need to maximize their incomes, tackle urgent financial problems and set and achieve financial goals.

As Canada's affordability crisis continues, this problem grows more urgent and the costs of inaction grow – for people with low incomes whose hardships deepen and for Canadians generally as demand for community, health and social services balloons.

Large-scale, government funded pilots of free, community, financial help services have shown that they are needed, reduce financial stress, help

low-income people boost their incomes and achieve other financial outcomes, and 95 per cent of participants would recommend the services to others. The Ontario government has wisely opted to keep funding these services, but sustained and strategic federal investment remains an elusive goal.

It's time for Canada to follow the example of other national governments (UK, Australia and New Zealand) that have moved vigorously to fill similar financial help gaps for their citizens with cross-sector collaboration and investment in government and community-based services that do what the private sector cannot.

Canada's financial help gap will not solve itself and Canadians with low incomes cannot afford to wait any longer. The time for action is now. ✍

ELIZABETH MULHOLLAND is CEO of Prosper Canada, a national charity dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for Canadians living in poverty through program and policy innovation.

Source: Quoi Media



▲ Elizabeth Mulholland.

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2023

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THE OLD ISLAND HIGHWAY ★ DEVLIN
THE PORTER BROTHERS ★ THE JOINT CHIEFS ★ FROM THE EARTH

SATURDAY AUG 5

BILLY CURRINGTON
LONESTAR ★ JESS MOSKALUKE ★ CORY MARKS
DANIELLE RYAN ★ WEST COAST SLACKERS ★ DJ ALL GOOD
JAIMEY HAMILTON ★ THE JOINT CHIEFS ★ FROM THE EARTH

FRIDAY AUG 4

LAINIEY WILSON
KAMERON MARLOWE ★ WILLIE JONES ★ MARK LEDLIN
DANIELLE RYAN ★ WEST COAST SLACKERS
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Parviz Tanavoli – a retrospective

by STAFF WRITER

Heritage and progress: national artistic identity or heavily influenced by Westernization. Parviz Tanavoli, recognized as the only Iranian artist to fully capture the duality and interplay of Iran's pre-Islam and Islamic cultural identities, showcases his six decade-long career at The Vancouver Art Gallery, July 1–Nov 19.

Parviz Tanavoli: Poets, Locks, Cages is the first major Canadian exhibition of works by the Iranian-born, Vancouver-based artist Tanavoli.

The exhibition, with over 100 major works, examines the layering of both sacred and secular histories – an integration crucial to the comprehension in the evolution of modern sculpture in Iran. Showcasing the full breadth of his practice, from sculpture and painting to printmaking and mixed-media assemblages, Tanavoli is among the foremost contemporary Iranian artists and it is the visual symbology through his sculptural work that has a lasting impact on modernism in Iran.

Artistic trajectory

In the mid-twentieth century Iranian cultural practices went through a transformative period which divided the art community.

Artists began to reconceptualize folk culture, Persian traditional motifs and Islamic iconography at a time of growing global consciousness and technological development.

upon which votive items such as flags or locks could be left by visitors or passersby. Inside, there was a fountain for drinking, and the structure was often decorated with religious objects such as candles, beads, ribbons, pages from prayer books, and even illustrated scenes from the battle.

After graduating from the Brera Academy of Milan in 1959, Tanavoli taught sculpting at the Tehran College of Decorative Arts, and from 1961-63 he taught at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He then returned to Iran, becoming the head of the sculpting department at the University of Tehran, a position he held for 18 years until 1979 when he retired from his teaching duties.

Since 1989 he has lived and worked both in Tehran and Vancouver. His 2019 solo exhibition entitled *Oh Nightingale* was presented by the West Vancouver Art Museum. Prior to that, he had another solo exhibition in 2017 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art based on his Lions works and Lion collection.

In 2003 he had a major retrospective at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art; in 2009 at the Meem gallery, in Dubai; and in 2011 at Austin Desmond Gallery, London.

Prior to that he had held acclaimed solo exhibitions in Austria, Italy, Germany, the United States, Britain and numerous other countries.

Similarly, his group exhibitions have been held on three

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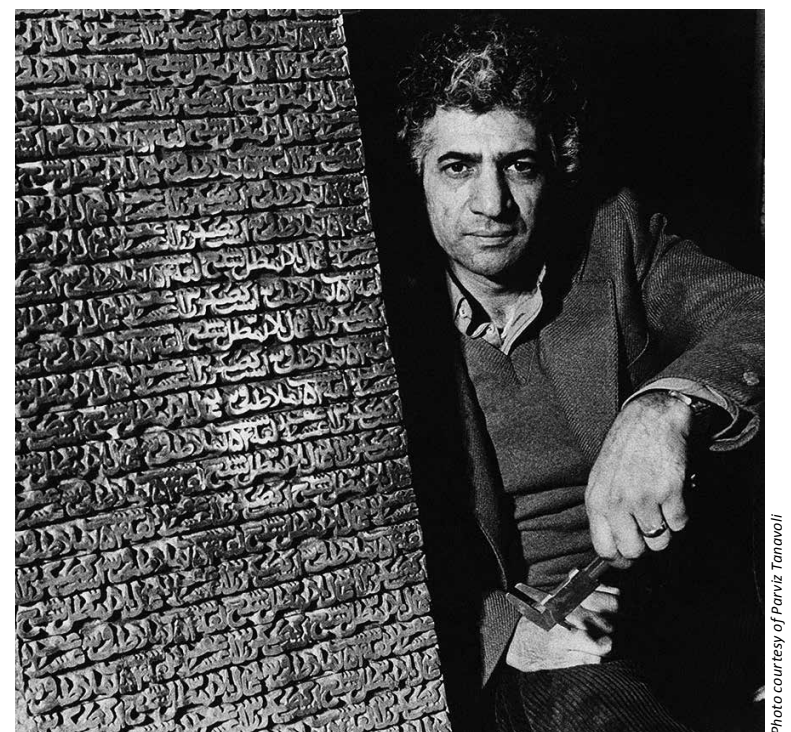
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▲ Parviz Tanavoli in his Niavaran studio, Tehran, 1988.

Tanavoli is a sculptor, painter, educator, and art historian. He is a pioneer within the Saqqakhaneh school, a neo-traditionalist art movement.

The Saqqakhaneh School, which emerged in the early 1960s in Iran, and has been influenced heavily by his country's history, culture and traditions.

The Persian word *saqqakhaneh* refers to a public water fountain that commemorates the Shi'i martyrs who had been deprived of water during the battle of Karbala (680 A.D.). It was at Karbala that Imam Husain was slain by the hand of Yazid, the Sunni ruler.

The *saqqakhaneh* often included a grill-like exterior

continents. Tanavoli's series of sculpture works called Heech (nothing in Farsi) are displayed in prestigious museums and public places, such as the British Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Hamline University, Aga Khan Museum, and as public art in the city of Vancouver.

The internationally celebrated artist has also written extensively on the history of Persian art and Persian crafts. Since 1989, Tanavoli has held dual nationality and has lived and worked both in Tehran, and in West Vancouver, British Columbia.

www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/exhibitions/parviztanavoli
www.tanavoli.com

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MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue Celebrating nature with artist Amy-Claire Huestis

by STAFF WRITER

Protecting biodiversity in ecological areas currently under threat, due to human development and expansion, is an important focus for artist Amy-Claire Huestis and her collaborators. Huestis displays MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue at the Richmond Gallery, June 29–Aug 20.

The exhibit draws particular attention to the proposed expansion of the Roberts Bank Terminal in Delta, B.C., adjacent to Brunswick Point.

Communal connection with nature

Huestis' work celebrates human kinship with birds and the interconnectedness of all

cotton. Sound design and composition by Huestis's main collaborator, Omar Zubair, plays throughout the gallery.

For the exhibition, the artists followed an experimental score for the summer solstice composed of walks on the dike trail, a participatory public performance at Garry Point Park, and a dance performance in the Gallery. Artworks, recordings, and costumes from the 2022 and 2023 performances are also featured.

The Delta Animal Resistance: Children's Storytime + Performance

As part of the summer solstice celebration, Huestis, Omar Zubair and OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehab) have organized a July 8 meet with a live owl



Photo by Amy-Claire Huestis

▲ MOTHLIKE/Silvery-blue by Amy-Claire Huestis.

things. MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue is a rich framework for communal connection with nature. In 2022, Huestis, with the help of her collaborators, led a site-specific performance at Hwlhits'um (Brunswick Point /Canoe Pass) – a place of critical ecological importance for migratory birds within the Key Biodiversity Area of the Fraser River Estuary, on the ancestral and present-day lands of the Coast Salish Peoples.

Carried through this storytelling exhibition is the mythopoetic tale of Silvery Blue, a fictional character who embodies the land. The artworks in the exhibition are fashioned to be re-animated through dance, sound performance, and community participation – through this, a story cycle unfolds of Silvery Blue's transformation from woman to butterfly to land. Huestis has created educational and intergenerational community partnerships and programs to facilitate kinship to the more-than-human world.

Huestis has also built a "Nest-work" in the back gallery as a place for communal action and knowledge that includes bird-friendly window treatments, artworks, and live footage of a barn owl nest box from Richmond Park's Nest Box Program. The Nest-work will house gatherings, performances and storytelling activities on birds and the river estuary.

The artworks are made with ecologically friendly materials including recycled packing materials, foam, and fabrics, natural pigments, and honest



Photo courtesy of Amy-Claire Huestis

▲ Book cover, The Delta Animal Resistance.

and storytelling performance, for children aged 7-12, of Huestis' children's book The Delta Animal Resistance. Admission is free.

Huestis will also perform with sound designer and composer Omar Zubair in an active storytime for the audience. OWL educators will be present to teach the public about owls. Live footage of an active barn owl nest located in Richmond will also be available.

Each family will be entitled to a *Four Ways to Care for Birds* children's activity book, and learn about bird-friendly actions for children:

1. Imagine how a bird sees the world.
2. Keep cats indoors.
3. Make windows safe.
4. Join the Delta Animal Resistance League. 🐦

For more information visit: www.richmondartgallery.org

The Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival is coming to town with an extensive program

by CYNTHIA LE TAILLANTER-DOS SANTOS

The Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival, organized by the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society, will take place this year over the Canada Day weekend from June 30 to July 8 in Downtown Vancouver.

The festival's agenda this year is particularly rich, hence, the locations have been expanded, and it will be hosted at the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza, Vancouver Playhouse and Annex Theatre.

"[It's] our largest scale to date with nine consecutive days of cultural exhibitions," says Margaret Hsieh, the society's vice chair.

The wonders of Taiwanese culture

Hsieh assures that everyone will have something to enjoy. 14 performance groups from Taiwan and Canada will participate, showcasing Taiwan and Canada's multicultural and artistic characteristics.

The event will be held in the perspective of "building a bridge between the Taiwanese" culture rooted in the large community durably established in Metro Vancouver and the Canadian multicultural landscape. One of the aims is to "increase the public knowledge and appreciation of Taiwanese art and culture as part of an ethnocultural community here in Canada."

The Taiwanese community has been present in Canada since the 1970s, with an acceleration in 2011. Since then, a major part of Tai-



▲ Atayal Taiwan First Nation M-yu dancers.

wanese Immigrants have chosen to settle in the Greater Vancouver metropolitan area. In 2011, 63 per cent of Taiwanese Immigrants in Canada resided in British Columbia (source: Statistics Canada).

The 2023 TAIWANfest's artistic vision continues to explore the stories that were once taken away from them and challenge the perspectives that tried to shape their identities. The event will be the occasion for the public to observe and capture the wonders offered by Taiwanese culture built over more than 5,000 years of history.

The organizer has tried to expose all the different expressions of the rich and varied arts. One of the many highlights is the presence of Master Hsin-Fu Hung, an acclaimed Taiwanese paper art master traveling to Vancouver to demonstrate and teach paper art to spectators. Master Hung is only using thin paper to express

his art and testify of the beauty of Taiwan's Hakka culture. Master Hung's outstanding presentation will be magnified by traditional Taiwanese stories that he enjoys sharing with the public.

An inclusive event celebrating Canadian multiculturalism

The Performing Arts Stage, set up in the North Plaza of the Vancouver Art Gallery, will be invigorating with outdoor music and dance performances during the whole duration of the event. Some of these performances have been long awaited (due to the pandemic), and the time has come for artists such as Atayal Taiwan First Nation M-yu Dancers, Taiwan Yangqin Orchestra and Jin YuYuan Puppet Troupe from Taichung City to share their talents with Vancouver audiences.

The organizer is focusing the festival agenda on sharing and

combining Taiwanese culture with all the different influences represented directly or indirectly in contemporary Canada. Hsieh hopes to work towards the goal of building an inclusive event, which is evidenced by the numerous performances.

"Canadian Aboriginal and ethnic orchestras will perform, including symphony orchestra, classical string performance, pop music, Aboriginal music and dance, Franco, Brazilian dance and jazz and hip-hop performances, among others. Ranging from traditional local to young trendy bands," she says. "It's going to be a very casual and family friendly event."

Families will particularly appreciate the various workshops and activities that are suitable for children with the focal point of the Vancouver Pops Orchestra & Choir being Wondrous Worlds,

a concert performance of music from various Disney films. Founded by Taiwanese musician Tom Kuo, the Vancouver Pops will perform at the Vancouver Playhouse on Saturday, July 8 as part of the festival "in order to bring happy and dreamy music to the audience."

In addition to this already promising program, it's worth noting that selected award-winning Taiwanese films – *Cloudy*, *Heavy Carving*, *The Most Distant Course* and *Mama Ping Pong Social Club* – will be accessible online from July 4 to 8 thanks to the collaboration with the Taiwan Film & Audio-visual Institute. 📺

For more information or inquiries, please visit the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival website www.tccfestival.ca www.facebook.com/TCCFestival

► "Summer Festivals" from page 1 and-coming artist from First Up with RBCXMUSIC are expected to take the stage as well.

"A group like the Dip – the thing that got us excited is their horn section," says Dawson. "With blues music, horns are such a staple, so it was important to me to include something that brought that feeling to the park."

In addition to the main stage in front of Deer Lake, Dawson notes that there will also be food trucks and a family activity area with roving performances as well as arts and crafts. For Dawson, this festival's family-friendly nature is what makes it a standout.

"The blues and roots festival feels more like a cultural attraction for the community – not really a commercial enterprise," says Dawson. "For our Burnaby residents who are out and at-

tending, I hope they will be proud of Burnaby and of how the city engages with culture."

Honouring Surrey's cultural diversity

With a diverse musical and dance line-up spread across 8 stages, the Surrey Fusion Festival, which has the theme of "Dance Around the World," returns to Holland Park with free admissions from 11am–10pm on July 22 and 23. In addition to music and dance performances, attendees can visit different culture pavilions and attend cooking demonstrations.

Preeti Yadav, project manager of special events for the City of Surrey, recommends that attendees enjoy lunch in the early afternoon at the festival, then treat themselves to cultural performances as well as the headline performances taking place

on the Concord Pacific World Music Stage. Chosen with Surrey's multicultural identity in mind, the line-up includes DJ Shub, Gurnam Bhullar, Don Amero, Tissa Rahim, and Karishma Deo. For Yadav, music is a powerful tool that preserves culture and shares stories.

"We hope attendees leave with a stronger sense of community support and belonging, new friendships and positive lasting memories," says Yadav.

One of the performers will be Filipino-Canadian songwriter, singer, and playwright Argel Monte de Ramos (MDR), whose musical inclinations began at a young age. Just three years old when he first started singing, Argel describes music as a part of his body. Since moving to Canada at the age of 15, Argel has received many acclaims for his musical talents, including win-

ning the music category of Surrey Art and Business Awards in 2022. For Argel, music is integral to his anti-racism work.

"Some of the hurdles and challenges of being a person of colour – hurdles to express opinions, questions about identity – mu-



Photo by Paolo Orlando

▲ Filipino-Canadian songwriter, singer, and playwright Argel Monte de Ramos (MDR).

sic gets a grasp of what I really want to tell people," says Argel.

In addition to performing, Argel is also a cofounder of Momentum 180 Collective's The Parallel Project, which aims to connect BIPOC artists interested in writing monologues with mentors and other artists. At the Surrey Fusion Festival, he will be performing two new songs with the hope of uplifting and inspiring people to continue pursuing their goals.

"As human beings, we are all connected no matter what we do. I want to connect as much as possible with people and for people to feel and see my story as something that is unique and also relatable," says Argel. 📺

For more information visit: www.earlymusic.bc.ca www.burnabybluesfestival.com www.surreyfusionfestival.ca www.argelmdr.com/music



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June 27–July 11, 2023

Cultural Calendar

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

In July, Vancouver truly comes alive with a tapestry of events that celebrate music, culture and the unique spirit of the city. Come and be part of the magic as you embrace the warm summer days and immerse yourself in the rich experiences that the city has to offer. So why not check out some of the events, exhibits and festivals happening below? And don't forget to celebrate Canada Day on July 1!

* * *

MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue
June 29–Aug. 20
www.richmondartgallery.org/mothlike-silvery-blue

MOTHLIKE/silvery-blue is the culmination of years of research and activity at Brunswick Point in Ladner, and along the foreshore of the Fraser River Delta by artist Amy-Claire Huestis and her collaborators. For this exhibition, Huestis and collaborators followed an experimental score for the summer solstice composed of walks on the dike trail, a participatory public performance at Garry Point Park and a dance performance in the Gallery. Artworks, recordings and costumes from the 2022 and 2023 performances are featured here.

* * *

Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival
June 30–July 2
www.tccfestival.ca

The Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival is Vancouver's celebration of Taiwanese and Canadian artists, featuring performances, exhibitions and Taiwan cinema. The festival's outdoor activities take place at the Vancouver Art Gallery from June 30 to July 2. There are multicultural performances, workshops, art exhibitions and kids crafts to enjoy. Films are also available to watch online with Taiwan Cinema from July 4th to 8th. There will also be four ticketed concerts. Please visit the festival's website for more information.

* * *

46th Annual Golden Spike Days Festival
June 30–July 3
www.goldenspike.ca

The Golden Spike Days Festival is one of the oldest and longest running family events in B.C. commemorating the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway line and its arrival at the original western terminus in Port Moody where the last spike was driven. It will be held at Port Moody's Rocky Point Park featuring food, activities and more during the Canada Day long weekend; there's something for everyone! Check out the Golden Spike Festival website for more information.

* * *

76th Steveston Salmon Festival
July 1
www.stevestonsalmonfest.ca

The Steveston Salmon Festival began over 75 years ago with the goal of raising funds for the community centre to build a new playground. Since these humble beginnings, it has become an annual Canada Day celebration that brings together the diverse individuals that make this place home and showcases the



▲ In celebration of their 35th Annual *Dancing On The Edge*, the festival will include a presentation of over thirty extraordinary dance productions in live stage performances showcasing artists from across Canada.

spirit of Steveston – all about community. There will be live performers, art shows, pancake breakfasts and a parade!

* * *

Dancing on the Edge Festival
July 6–15
www.dancingontheedge.org

This festival celebrating contemporary dance forms returns to Vancouver for the 35th time. Watch Japanese dancers perform butoh at Wreck Beach, interpretive dancers creating and embodying love, hope and fear and choreographed dancers parodying pop culture and conformism. The festival hopes to show audiences that pushing the boundaries of dance can be stimulating and challenging, while also entertaining.

* * *

36th Vancouver Greek Summerfest
July 6–9; 13–16
vancouvergreeksummerfest.com

Vancouver's Greek Summerfest is back in 2023 for a 36th year. This year's community fundraiser brings back stage entertainment featuring local bands and cultural performances. Celebrate great Greek food with Vancouver's expansive and diverse community! Indulge in all your favorites: loukoumades (Greek donuts), souvlaki, BBQ lamb, spanakopita, take a piece of Greece home with you. Vegan options have been added to the menu for 2023 as well as eat-in online ordering. Check out their website for more information.

* * *

13th Annual Indian Summer Festival
July 6–16
www.indiansummerfest.ca

The 13th Annual Indian Summer Festival will take place from July 6–16. This year, their distilled, powerful, ten-event lineup will speak to the theme of 'inter/de-

pendence.' Ancient Cultures have long understood that we exist in relationship to all. How could we truly understand our/selves in isolation when we are sculpted by near and distant conditions, and we affect all through our actions? The festival is an invitation to artists to unpack the illusion of separateness, to explore shifts in their own work from fragmentation and isolated individualism to constellations of connectedness. For tickets and lineup information, check out the festival's website.

* * *

Carnaval del Sol
July 7–9
www.carnavaldelsol.ca

Celebrate the richness of Latin American culture and its presence in British Columbia. In 2023, Latincover will embrace the Past, Present and Future of Latin America's roots in Canada, connecting all three levels and

assembling them into one beautiful and magical celebration. Carnaval del Sol will feature several events celebrating the culture, including an orchestra, tango & flamenco, a soccer tournament and film night. Check out their website for tickets and more information.

* * *

44th Annual Harrison Festival of the Arts
July 7–16
www.harrisonfestival.com

For four decades, the Harrison Festival of the Arts has presented the best in Canadian and International performing and visual arts. Music from all corners of the globe, exhibits, workshops – and you're invited! The Festival has something for everyone: visual and literary arts, music, theatre and a large outdoor art and craft market filled with local artisanal products. There's even a day dedicated to children, so your little ones can enjoy all the art world has to offer in a hands-on environment. Best of all, The Festival is free of large crowds, line-ups and high ticket prices that usually accompany an event of this caliber. It's world-class entertainment, but with a small-town feel. For event information, check out their website.

* * *

Khatsahlano Street Party
July 8, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
www.khatsahlano.ca

Brought to you with love by the Merchants of West 4th Avenue, Khatsahlano Street Party returns for its 11th year on West 4th Ave, between Burrard and MacDonald, for an action-packed day of fun. There will be lots of live music, a beer garden, mini-golf, food trucks and many activities. For more info on all the musicians performing and stage schedule, please visit their website.

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