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forum of diversity

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Music in parks and on streets: A summer of live performances

by LILLIAN LIAO

“I find it healing and cathartic to sing about the things that are hard and the feelings that are hard,” says local musician Kimiko Dorey (who performs professionally as Kimiko). “And in doing so, you let people see behind the curtain.”

Kimiko will perform for the third time at the Powell Street Festival (PSF), an annual celebration of Japanese Canadian culture now in its 48th year, taking place on August 3rd and 4th. For Kimiko, the festival is a cherished opportunity to reclaim her Japanese heritage by connecting with her audience.

Powell Street Festival is one of a number of festivals taking place this summer which feature a heavy music focus. With events such as this, along with the upcoming Surrey Fusion Festival (July 20 to 21) and the Burnaby Blues + Roots Festival (Aug 10), there are a breadth of opportunities to connect with musicians across the world, here in the Lower Mainland.

Seeing behind the curtains

“What’s been a real gift and a joy is that other people let you see behind [their curtains] in a really beautiful reciprocal kind of way,” says Kimiko, noting the spirituality of the performer-audience relationship. “You feel it in your bones when you’ve connected with people, and you see it in their faces.”

Kimiko was first inspired to perform at the festival after



▲ The Burnaby Blues + Roots Festival returns this summer, along with a number of other festivals with a musical focus.

Photo courtesy of the City of Burnaby

seeing her friends and choir colleagues take the stage back in 2019. Even though she had been performing from ages six to nine, she stopped singing in front of an audience when grieving the death of her vocal teacher. When she returned to performing after a fifteen-year hiatus, she remained drawn to relatable stories that touch on the sadness and pain of the human condition, including those that highlight the universality of women’s experiences.

“Our society praises being strong ..., and I think it’s really powerful to do the opposite,” says Kimiko. “It’s really power-

ful to say ‘hey, I’m scared,’ ‘hey, I’m sad,’ ‘hey, I’m going through this thing’ and I’m going to invite you to come along with me.”

For her first two solo performances at the festival in 2022 and 2023, Kimiko used this power of vulnerability to cover emotive songs that spoke to her own experiences. With performances of Brandi Carlile’s *The Joke*, her past performances combined narrativity with music to explore social justice themes, such as marginalization and privilege. At this year’s festival, she will be performing on a street stage with a colleague from her full-time teach-

ing position, Jonathan Sykes.

“This year is a little bit more unplugged, a little bit more of an acoustic vibe, and a little pared down,” she adds, noting their plans to perform some of Sykes’ originals.

With the goal of singing her own songs at next year’s festival, Kimiko recognizes PSF as providing her with a home that she didn’t know was needed. As a *hafu* (half-Japanese) artist who grew up in Surrey, she recalls how the lack of a Japanese community created feelings of being out of place but also not being Japanese enough. For Kimiko, PSF has allowed for a reclaiming

of her Japanese heritage by providing a community with shared experiences and histories.

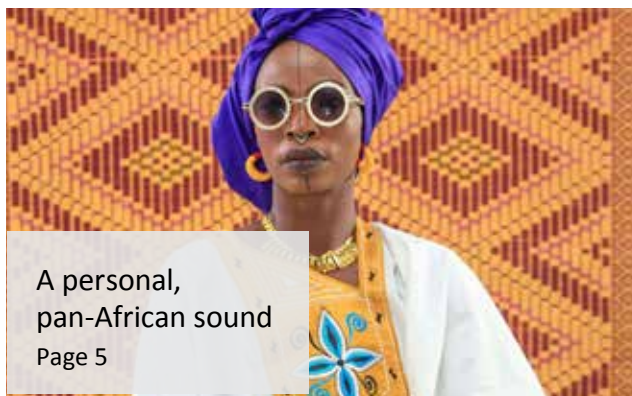
Diverse music tastes

Zada Szocs, who goes by ZADA, make her Surrey Fusion Festival debut this year. Inspired by a range of musical genres, including alternative, hip hop, and R&B, ZADA, who grew up in Whistler, started playing the piano at the age of 10 and soon began singing. With a recently released album in March titled *Water in the Desert*, her music draws from personal experiences and observations.

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Chess for players new and old
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A personal, pan-African sound
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Connections, history and healing
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Passion and inspiration – building community stewardship at Burnaby Lake Regional Park

by ALISON MACDONALD

The City of Burnaby's annual Environmental Awards were recently celebrated, recognizing individuals and associations that have had an environmental impact on their community. In the category of Community Stewardship, Irene Lau, acting chair for the board of directors for the Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA), was acknowledged for outstanding environmental achievements contributing to environmental stewardship, public awareness and rehabilitation of the City of Burnaby's environment.

The most recent award adds to a long list for the BLPA, whose mission has been to preserve, restore and protect the ecological integrity of Burnaby Lake Regional Park.

Lau began volunteering with the BLPA after seeing an ad for volunteers in the Burnaby Now in 2010 and has been instrumental in its leadership since 2012 when she joined the board. She plays a major role in connecting the community with nature through habitat restoration and enhancement, education and outreach. In advancing BLPA's mission, vision and values, she credits founding member, Joe Sa-

Founded in 1976 as one of the first community groups to start with them or growing the 'birding is for everyone' philosophy and educating the public on the migration routes, BLPA and its outreach programs have looked to build community and an appreciation for nature.

Appreciating nature and building the commitment to preserve and protect

"Birds are a wonderful discovery. There is this stereotype of a bird watcher, in a fisherman's

In addition to birding, Lau has also worked to collaborate with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks and built a community with the park's diverse groups to share details on bear awareness, education and safety in the park. Overall Lau and the BLPA have looked to actively promote the values of caring for the environment, community collaboration and action and communication and education.

"We are so incredibly lucky to have this green space in the centre of the city, to have an engaged

“...you're hearing the birds, the rustle of the wind in the trees and you feel the serenity despite the bustling city around you.

Irene Lau, acting chair for the board of directors for the Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA)

vest, an exclusive hobby to have, but birding is for everyone and people are so passionate about sharing knowledge," says Lau.

Lau adds how valuable a practice that can be, particularly since the organization's community outreach activities were curtailed for over two years due

group, with learning and outreach," she adds. "We're lucky to work with Metro Vancouver and share the same values, [being] committed to protecting the ecosystem and connecting people to nature. Here we have the same passion for nature. We attract people who have the same values, who care about nature."

Lau encourages Metro Vancouver residents to come out to Burnaby Lake Regional Park, to make nature a part of their everyday lives and to connect with the diverse park population and



▲ Trailgoers look for birds at Burnaby Lake Park.

dowski, as being the motivation for her involvement.

"He took us on a nature walk and he was so fascinating and so passionate. He has been such a source of inspiration. As a city girl I knew about five birds: robin, chickadee, mallard, crow and Canada goose. As an immigrant, who didn't go camping and who was not particularly outdoorsy, Joe had the ability to connect, and I was fascinated by nature," says Lau. "I was like a sponge, absorbing all of the information from members and directors. I couldn't believe that I could learn so much about nature in the last 14 years."

to pandemic-era lockdowns.

"I have been so lucky to be the only person on Piper Spit, in the middle of Burnaby Lake. There is Metrotown and Lougheed Mall – you can hear the hum of Highway 1. But if you block that out, you're hearing the birds, the rustle of the wind in the trees and you feel the serenity despite the bustling city around you. There is this sense of amazement. Burnaby Lake is right in the middle of the city. We do not have to go far to access nature," says Lau. "Through COVID, we learned how important nature is, how important it is for our mental health."



▲ Burnaby Environmental award winner and Burnaby Lake Park Association board chair Irene Lau says that Burnaby Lake is an excellent place to connect with the natural environment.

programs for appreciation, education, outreach and enjoyment.

"We are like a gateway to nature for some people and encourage people to learn more. If people learn to love it, you'll want to protect it," says Lau. ✂

For more information about the BLPA, visit www.burnabylakepark.ca/who-we-are

Le plaisir of the words by Le Stylo à mots

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Horizontally

- 1- depth vision
- 2- mental representation – useful holders
- 3- courage – can be used to keep painting
- 4- very small quantity – good for atmospheric skies – employ – dangerous rays
- 5- great piece of land – a slender pointed part
- 6- no idea – very popular state in painting
- 7- liquid cosmetic – to help the artist
- 8- to draw or write an idea – city
- 9- suffix for "full of" – locates
- 10- myself – deficient in color – alternative current
- 11- painting killers
- 12- direction – engineer

verticalement

- A) couleur – arbre
- B) préparations huileuses – ancien pinceau
- C) rongeur nuisible – prénom
- D) numéro atomique 106 – impressioniste – existes
- E) tableaux – entre amis
- F) édition – pour fumer
- G) guitariste croate – merveilleux
- H) rideau de fond de scene – lésion cutanée sphérique
- I) plantes aquatiques – ventile
- J) porte – amoureuse célèbre – couleur de peinture populaire
- K) article espagnol – plusieurs – roue d'une poulie
- L) liquide végétal - sombre

For answers, see page 8

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Dixie Fried



Hep Katz




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Photo courtesy of S.U.C.C.E.S.S.B.C.

Flipping the picture: S.U.C.C.E.S.S. targets equity for all

by GEORGE SUN

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation supports immigrants by helping them receive opportunities to start their life in Canada. As a recent report from Statistics Canada shows, temporary foreign workers in Canada are more consistently transitioning into permanent residency, compared to previous cohorts in years prior. As such, organizations like S.U.C.C.E.S.S. look to play a key role in enabling the integration of new arrivals to Canada.

But the foundation does more than just serving newcomers, seniors, youth and families – S.U.C.C.E.S.S. aims to help them find their place, offering programs and support for nearly every individual to help those who need it most.

“We want to stay very inclusive and open to meet everyone’s needs,” says Queenie Choo, CEO of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. British Colum-

bia. “We serve anyone, including those with mental, physical and social needs.”

Founded in 1973, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has become a key social service agency for immigrants and individuals on their Canadian journey. By supporting people on their path to Canadian citizenship, Choo says the organization hopes to make things equitable.

What ‘success’ means

Since starting in 2012, Choo has overseen a variety of the organization’s programs. She emphasizes that S.U.C.C.E.S.S. operates under several lines of service, with their major program categories being integrated services for newcomers and affordable housing.

“We have resettlement programs, as well as language training, employment and entrepreneurship workshops,” says Choo.

Choo says S.U.C.C.E.S.S. also prioritizes creating an active community. For immigrants, establishing a sense of home is essential. Furthermore, newcom-

ers have civic responsibilities like voting.

“(Having civic responsibilities) is a way to get to know the community, the province and the country,” says Choo.

Ultimately, she says S.U.C.C.E.S.S. relies on a holistic approach, one that considers not just the person, but the community.

“There are programs for permanent residents and there are programs for temporary residents, so depending on their background and needs, we will find a way to help,” says Choo.

Equal or equitable

Choo notes how immigrants and newcomers are severely disadvantaged compared to residents as opportunities do not come often. Accessing social services is no easy task; challenges like the language barrier and culture difference make it all the more inconvenient. Choo says this disparity is so drastic that, at times, it makes integrating into Canadian life difficult and obtrusive. As an immigrant

herself, Choo says she understands the added complexity of being a newcomer.

As such, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. looks to improve fairness in the job market. The organization encourages employers to hire immigrants and provides resour-

ces to make the hiring process smoother.

People proficient in English also have a head start, so S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has started providing language learning resources for newcomers, resources which, previously, would not have been known.

“It’s important to look at equitable wages and equitable job opportunities, so (immigrants) have a seat at the table and not be discriminated against because they are newcomers,” says Choo.

For parents with children, informing them about how to enroll in the school system is a step towards making things more equitable as well. Between work, education and language programs and more, Choo hopes that S.U.C.C.E.S.S. can continue to help new arrivals find their way and find success.


“All in all, there’s a lot of orientation to a new community and there’s a lot of challenges to find out what a local community is like,” says Choo. 



Photo courtesy of S.U.C.C.E.S.S.B.C.

▲ S.U.C.C.E.S.S. British Columbia CEO Queenie Choo.



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PARADE IN THE PARK

After the pandemic, inside the recent resurgence of chess among youth

by SAVA ROZSNYAI

The COVID-19 pandemic arguably represents society's most unexpected turn of events in recent memory. Lockdowns and quarantines had people searching for ways to pass time – cue the resurgence of chess, a timeless board game that has always found its place within culture, but has made a particularly notable splash among youth in recent years. Locally, the Chigorin Chess Club finds itself among a blooming community, finding its roots within the diverse Russian-speaking community of Vancouver but open to everyone of all ages.

With World Chess Day just around the corner on July 20, as well as the centenary of the FIDE (International Chess Federation), the Chigorin Chess Club has been able to witness the recent, global evolution of the game's landscape among youth as it has played out here in Vancouver.

The club's president, Konstantin Pyryaev, moved to Canada in 2005. Along with his friends, Chigorin Chess Club was born soon after, named for the famed Russian chess player Mikhail Chigorin.

The club now boasts about a dozen dedicated members, as well as many others of all ages, and has served as a welcoming cornerstone to the community. The group has attracted old veterans back to the board game, some who haven't played in decades, as well as young players newer to the game.

"A lot of players came up during [the pandemic], some who haven't

played chess for 20 years," he also affirms this period's role in the resurgence of chess among youth.

"The two biggest factors in chess's [recent] uptake were the pandemic lockdowns and [shows such as] *Queen's Gambit*," he explains, referring to how the dra-

edly contributing to the popularity of the pastime among youth and accelerating the evolution of the landscape from one generation to the next. Pyryaev's second venture, e2-e4! Chess for Kids, argues for chess on their website as a healthy activity for kids, build-

"I have students, and I'll be hosting a championship [for them soon]. Some of my students are Russian-speaking or have Russian-speaking parents, but everyone is welcome," he explains.

Online forms of chess often propose more novel formats

events among clubs. Chigorin will even be using this concept in an upcoming event.

"One of my favourite events, called Chess'n'run, is where you play [timed] chess with a clock, [making the game] more intensive and fun for kids," he says.

“A lot of players came up during [the pandemic], some who haven't played chess for 20 years.

Konstantin Pyryaev, president, Chigorin Chess Club

matization of chess in popular culture and media has helped attract new players to the game.

Increasing takeup among youth

Another important element contributing to the evolution of the hobby's landscape among youth is the uptake in online chess. Enticing viewers with their organized tournaments and events, popular Twitch and YouTube personalities have used this mode to entertain their fanbase.

Appealing to youthful audiences through digital means, online chess has also allowed users to engage with the game, including learning and refining strategies from online sources, without needing to own a board.

Social media sites such as TikTok and Instagram have helped popularize the sport by spreading videos and short clips of chess personalities and match highlights. Whether the publicity is constructive or not, it's undoubt-

ing independence, focus and creative thinking among others.

In keeping with the spirit of the game, Konstantin Pyryaev plans to bring new fun to the Chigorin Chess Club, including a championship for kids and more, especially near Christmas.

of playing chess, such as blitz, rapid and others, which are modes which mainly consist of playing on tighter time constraints than traditional chess, thereby offering a fresher perspective to matches which are widely being integrated into

Institutions across the world are organizing similar activities for World Chess Day on the 20th of July. On that same day, Chigorin will be hosting Chess'n'Run for Chess International Day at the Richmond Olympic Oval, open to families and people of all ages. Having previously organized matches with the chess clubs at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia, Pyryaev hopes to perhaps rekindle past events.

The International Chess Federation is also celebrating its centenary this year, further appealing chess to the new generation by introducing numerous tournaments at schools in India, China, Colombia and many more.

"The [scene] is blooming," Pyryaev deems, and it doesn't seem to be slowing down.



For more information on the Chigorin Chess Club, visit: www.chigorin.ca



▲ Chigorin Chess Club founder Konstantin Pyryaev (left) says the recent chess boom has led to an increase in players of all ages.

► "Festivals" from page 1

"I've always had the opportunity to express myself in multiple art forms, either through singing, playing, painting, and I really just gravitated most to music and the creation of songwriting," she says.

ZADA's songwriting inspirations often come from intimate sources, such as her poems or diary entries. Collaborating with other songwriters and producers, she transforms these intensely personal experiences into relatable songs touching on themes like mental health, immigration, and missing a loved one. She was originally hesitant to write about romantic love partly because it was an unfamiliar experience at the time, but also due to a desire to explore other forms of love.

"If you sing about peace, you are singing about love to some extent," says ZADA. "I wanted to explore all the different options possible before getting there."

Her performance at the Surrey Fusion Festival will feature music from *Water in the Desert* as well as a special demo. She notes that the album's title is inspired by the feeling of a sudden realization that brings new energy. It also embodies her eclectic music taste, as she explains how the storytelling resembles a folk style, vocals reminiscent of R&B, grit instrumen-



▲ Whistler-based artist ZADA will perform at the Surrey Fusion Festival on July 20.

tals from alternative music, and percussions from afrobeat.

"The part that makes it afrobeat is that we're getting down to the roots of not necessarily needing the fanciest things but using the tools around you and creating a story for that," explains ZADA, noting that the percussions in some of her songs were first created from playing around with kitchen utensils.

Expanding a genre

For Lois Dawson, coordinator of festivals and special events at the City of Burnaby, this year Burnaby Blues + Roots festival has something for everyone, particularly with the shift to free admissions in recent years. For its 23rd iteration, the festivals will feature a diverse lineup of five musical acts – Mavis Staples, the della kit, Calexico, The Suffers and Crystal Shawanda – with different approaches to the genre.

"We really talked a lot about

the broadest possible definition of blues and roots, wanting to look at folks who have defined the genre, like Mavis Staples, but also folks who have really expanded the genre to incorporate additional influences," says Dawson.

Dawson approaches programming as putting together pieces of a puzzle with careful attention to how artists contrast and balance each other. With American blues icon Mavis Staples headlining, this year's line-up is also diversified with indie rock band Calexico's Latin influences and Canadian singer-songwriter Crystal Shawanda's country feel. The city works with Live Nation Canada and First Up with RBCxMusic, a program supporting emerging Canadian talent, to source artists.

"In this case, the della kit was a natural fit for us," says Dawson, noting the band's participation in the RBC program. "They're originally BC-based, they fit right into this blues and roots

expansive genre understanding, so it was an easy pick out of the 2023 ones."

Attendees can also enjoy a diverse food truck selection, an enclosed beer garden and a community zone showcasing non-profit organizations. For her, the festival not only fosters community, but also invests in local talent.

"You never know, maybe a kid who's coming and watching the show this year is going to be our next RBC First Up performer and will one day be our headliner," she says.

For more information on the Powell Street Festival, see www.powellstreetfestival.com.

For more information on the Surrey Fusion Festival, see www.surreyfusionfestival.ca.

For more information on Burnaby Blues + Roots, see www.burnaby.ca/recreation-and-arts/events/burnaby-blues-roots-festival.

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City of Powell River

Vancouver Folk Music Festival

A life of art and a showcase of pan-African music

by CURTIS SEUFERT

Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter and artist Dobet Gnahoré has had music and art coursing through her veins from the very beginning. After growing up in an artist's village in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Gnahoré spent the last 25 years creating and sharing original music, which is diversely influenced by a range of new and old African sounds.

She'll be opening act on the evening main stage at this year's Vancouver Folk Festival, which returns this year to Jericho Beach Park from July 19 to 21. With this performance, Gnahoré says she's eager to showcase the continuation of her musical trajectory with her recently-released album, *Zouzou*.

"I truly let my soul speak based on what I have experienced and heard. I have been making music for almost 25 years, and I see that people appreciate what I offer," says Gnahoré. "It's the only way for me to express myself, and I love this unique musical voice that I have developed."

A personal musical history

Gnahoré says she first became interested in music from the singing of her grandmother, who frequently sang in funeral ceremonies. From an early age, Gnahoré says she was emotionally taken by the feeling and meaning her grandmother embedded into those touching performances.

"She would cry and sing to accompany the dead into the after-life, and the emotion she put into her songs deeply affected me," she says. "From then on, I was drawn to singing and the idea of accompanying people to their final resting place."

And while the seed of musical passion began to sprout, it only grew more as she learned more about her musical roots. At around five or six years of age, Gnahoré left her hometown in central-west Côte d'Ivoire to move to Abidjan, the largest city and former capital of the country. In Abidjan she was raised in the Ki-Yi M'Bock village, a Pan-African artist village co-founded in the mid-1980s by various artists including her father who was a percussionist. Gnahoré says that growing up here deeply inspired her passion for arts even further.

"This village was a place where art and culture were omnipresent: music, dance, painting, sculpture. For me, it was fascinating," she says.

It was a fortunate upbringing, particularly as Gnahoré faced difficulties with scholarly work, including learning and writing French. Dropping out early to join a dance company, Gnahoré's passion and life path was headed towards a singular focus.

Gnahoré's father acknowledged her passion and decided to create an arts-focused learning module for her and other children in the artist's village, allowing them to study art

forms like music, dance and theatre. In effect, her life became fully enconced in music and art. For Gnahoré, it's hard to see her life playing out any other way.

"I only know how to do this. I think like an artist, my whole life is steeped in art," says Gnahoré.

Sharing a pan-African sound

Years later, Gnahoré says her own artistic voice is deeply influenced by a variety of African musical styles from West and Central Africa, including a mix of rumba, mandingo music and traditional pygmy music, blending it with various afropop and modern dance styles.

Gnahoré says her style looks to pay homage to various African languages and influences to



▲ Singer-songwriter and musician Dobet Gnahoré, performing at this year's Vancouver Folk Festival.

showcase the diverse breadth of musical and cultural history throughout the continent.

"I try to use different African languages to valorize our linguistic heritage and incorporate African rhythms so that they don't get lost," she says.

In addition to a focus on pan-African rhythms and stylings, Gnahoré's work is also consistently characterized by intentional lyricism on pressing social issues and themes, including poverty, injustice, and the place and impact of women and children in society.

Her work is also regularly inspired by love itself – Gnahoré says she is deeply inspired by its impact, adding that love has played a key role in shaping the themes of her latest album, *Zouzou*.

"The themes of my songs remain constant: love, compassion, helping others, nature, gratitude for life. My songs also address issues like polygamy, incest, deforestation and of course love in all its forms. I write about these themes because they deeply affect me and I want to share them with my audience," she says.

In all, Gnahoré is eager to return to perform in Vancouver folk fest, where she hopes audiences will resonate with the themes and music on display.

"I am very happy to return to Vancouver, a festival where many artists dream of performing. I can't wait to meet new people and share our music with them."

For more information about the festival, visit <https://thefestival.bc.ca>

A creative reconnection at the Vancouver Art Book Fair

by SANDRINE JACQUOT

Canada's largest and longest-running art book fair is set to return in-person for the first time since 2019. The Vancouver Art Book Fair (VABF) will feature over 80 diverse exhibitors at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre on July 26 and 27.

"We're really excited to have the fair back in person," says Jonathan Middleton, co-organizer for the VABF. From events including panel discussions on zines sponsored by the Vancouver Art Gallery, book signings, a special reading of Garry Kennedy's work by Cathy Busby and performances from guests like multi-disciplinary artist

Julian Yi-Zhong Hou, there's a breadth of events and literature on offer at this event.

lications, you don't necessarily always understand how vibrant it is," Middleton says. At events like these, Middleton adds, festival-goers often get the chance to meet with the publisher and artists behind the literary and artistic works.

"You also get to take in not only an individual artwork but also the context through which it's produced. I think that context carries meaning," Middleton says, adding that it's important to create community and allow audiences to learn about how diverse the field is.

In the spirit of community-building the VABF will be hosting a new day-long symposium held at Emily Carr University on July 28. Attendees of the day-long event can learn about the

“You also get to take in not only an individual artwork but also the context through which it's produced. I think that context carries meaning.

Jonathan Middleton, co-organizer, Vancouver Art Book Fair

world of art publishing through various panels on magazines and art criticism, distribution and funding and more.

This symposium is also an opportunity for exhibitors to network and meet other publishers from around the world beyond their booth neighbours. "We're doing this symposium partly so those people can meet and have more extended conversations on things that are really important to publishing," Middleton says.

"That's the exciting thing about the book fair is that you

have everyone from zine makers who are doing things very DIY and low-budget ... to the larger, higher budget catalogues, artists and books," he says. Middleton adds that there will also be tables with student works, from UBC and Middleton's own class at Emily Carr University.

A chance to connect

In its 11th iteration, the VABF is emphasizing the importance of connecting within the publishing community and with the public. These festivals, Middleton explains, are often the main – if not the only – way these publications reach wider audiences.



Photo by Katarzyna Roman

▲ Art book lovers will have the chance to connect discover new favourites and meet artists and authors at this year's Vancouver Art Book Fair.

Without seeing the kind of mass of these books and pub-

For Middleton, it's these connections that bring such a value to in-person events for all involved.

"Those kinds of one-on-ones, for me, [have] always been the core experience at an art book fair, that you get to actually have interesting conversations with the person who's producing the thing that you're holding in your hands and you get to hear their reason for making it," he says.

"It's going to be a lot of fun... it's a chance to also find things that are really special for your bookshelves and things that you can keep and enjoy for a long time."

For more information about the fair, visit <https://2024.vancouverartbookfair.com>

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I am my mother's daughter

The resonance of relationships in art

by ELAHA AMANI

Muslim South Asian Canadian artist Farheen Haq explores the intricate beauty of familial and cultural connections, intergenerational pain and the journey towards healing. Presented by The Reach Gallery Museum, Haq's multimedia exhibition *I am my mother's daughter* displays twenty years of art through video, sculpture, performance and community engagement.

"This exhibit is a record of two decades of art-making that examines family relationships and how we define ourselves in relation to our most intimate connections," Haq says. "Parent-child bonds, relationships with oneself, with the land and with one's spirit and faith are all areas that I investigate in my work."

The exhibition will take place from July 6, 2024 to March 8, 2025 at The Reach Gallery Museum. The Reach will be featuring two new works by the artist: *Pani ki Awaz* (Voice of Water), a sculptural video installation; and *Janamaaz*, a series of embroidered praying mats.

Background

I am my mother's daughter draws inspiration from Haq's mother and her journey to Canada as a young bride of an arranged marriage. Her mother arrived from Pakistan in Haudenosaunee territory in the Niagara region of Ontario in the 1970s, where she built a new life for her and her children. Hearing her mother's

stories impressed the importance of strength and courage upon Haq, moving her to centre some of her most pivotal art pieces around mothers and matriarchs.

"In particular, this show is an homage to mothers in its most expansive sense – life-givers in our families, to the land and those who take care of us. It aims to centre the knowledge and power held in matriarchal lines," she says.

Haq's art also investigates her cultural and spiritual identity, enabling her to better understand her heritage and history as a means to move forward. *I am my mother's daughter* is a reflection on her experience as the daughter of an arranged union, and now, as a mother herself. By listening to her mother's stories, Haq cultivated a deeper understanding of the hardships and importance of caregiving, carrying these lessons with her as she navigated her own motherhood.

"Caregiving and raising a family has been one of the most important and challenging roles I have undertaken. I credit my mother and ancestors for gifting me the example of how to do this work," she says.

Enduring connections given form

Raised on Haudenosaunee territory in the Niagara Region of Ontario, Canada, Haq grew up amongst a tight-knit community of Muslim elders and Indigenous peoples. From there, the importance of good relationships and reciprocity was imprinted upon



▲ *Silisila*, a video installation as part of *I am my mother's daughter*.

Photo courtesy of Farheen Haq

her. In addition to the community that welcomed her family, Haq also developed a strong connection to the land upon which she resides; the Niagara Falls and abundance of creeks and grasslands she explored as a child nurtured a love for nature that is reflected in her art.

Understanding her heritage and history is a theme Haq revisits in many of her works. Now as a mother who is raising her kids on lək'wəḡən (Lkwungen) territory, where she has established many enduring relationships with Indigenous friends, she feels the transcendent nature of

the bonds with her family, the land and her spirituality.

"These connections, with the people and the land, remind me to go back to my family and the land I grew up on to learn about where I come from," she reflects. "These investigations help me understand who I am and ask questions about my inner world which I then give form to in my work."

Bridge between communities

Haq has been an artist for nearly three decades now, and one of the aspects of her work she most enjoys is community engagement. In that spirit of community, the

present exhibition features a community textile project that involved over forty local artists embroidering Indian poet Kabir's work on two wedding veils, a process she says was filled with joy and connection. Haq hopes she can host more such opportunities in the future.

"I would love to continue doing collaborative works that share the healing potential of art. Art has the power to bridge differences and bring together the heart and the spirit," says Haq.

For more information please visit: www.thereach.ca

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Cultural Calendar

July 9–August 20, 2024

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The long summer season is here and I hope everyone has a great summer planned! Below is a sampling of events to check out. Whatever your plans, make the most of it! Create some amazing summer memories and I'll see you in late August!

22nd Vancouver Chinatown Festival
July 13–14, 12 noon–6 p.m.
www.vancouver-chinatown.com/festival

The Vancouver Chinatown Festival is a free two-day event featuring a variety of cultural activities and performances. Highlights include live stage performances such as ethnic cultural dances, Taiko drumming and musical acts, as well as a new children's theatre with lion dance demonstrations, princess sing-alongs and magic shows. The Kids Corner offers interactive workshops, carnival games and face painting, while the Cultural Diversity Corner features activities like lantern making, Chinese fan making and traditional games. Visitors can also enjoy guided tours of Chinatown, an artisan's market, food trucks and meet the festival mascot, VanVan.

Sunday Afternoon Salsa at Robson Square
Sundays from July 14–Aug. 18 (except Aug. 4)
www.sundayafternoonsalsa.com

Sunday Afternoon Salsa is an annual summer festival (since 2006) of free outdoor Salsa dances held at Robson Square in downtown Vancouver during the summer months of July and August. Try the free beginner dance lesson (either Salsa or Bachata) at 3 p.m., watch the dance performances at 5 p.m. or just check out the social dancing throughout the afternoon and see how much fun it is!

The Tempest Project
July 17–22
www.musiconmain.ca/event/the-tempest-project

Inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Music on Main's *The Tempest Project* is a music-filled journey through a theatre envel-



▲ This year's Korean Cultural Heritage Festival features events such as traditional musical performances and K-Pop dance contests and martial arts events.

oped in sound and light. Explore themes of revenge and forgiveness, love, magic, freedom and betrayal as you plunge into this musically audacious production, which stands as a poetic response to universal challenges. Led through the Vancouver Playhouse, audiences embark on a roving musical adventure, witnessing performances in unexpected places. Musicians weave intricate melodies into a rich musical fabric filled with mystery and beauty. As new spaces and sounds are discovered, new depths of meaning unfold.

Fourth Annual CREATE! Eastside Arts Festival
July 22–28
www.createartsfestival.ca

The 4th annual CREATE! Eastside Arts Festival is a week-long, exciting and immersive arts event this summer, bringing together local artists and the community to explore, learn and create in Strathcona Park, and in pop up locations such as breweries, venues and art studios across the Eastside Arts District. This innovative festival offers arts workshops, live music performances, a beer garden, public art activations, an art shop and many more opportunities for art lovers of all ages and abilities to experience!

Disability Tour Bus
Available to stream July 24
<https://realwheels.ca/disability-tour-bus>

Realwheels Theatre is excited to announce their new production, *Disability Tour Bus*, will be released as a radio play podcast and available for streaming on July 17 at realwheels.ca. The podcast follows Shiloh, a young wheelchair-user, as they navigate their first day as a guide for "Funcouver Bus Tours." Working alongside long-time employee and relentless dad-joker, Hugh, Shiloh struggles to stick to the "Funcouver" script when so much of "Canada's most wheelchair-accessible city" is still so incredibly inaccessible. People and politics collide until a new passenger, Tess, comes aboard and offers unexpected common ground. The tour must go on! Because there's someone special waiting for Tess at the end. At least she hopes there is.

2024 Summer Festival: Bach Untamed
July 25–Aug. 8
www.earlymusic.bc.ca/tickets/2024-summer-festival-bach-untamed

The 2024 Summer Festival: *Bach Untamed* invites you to discover new arrangements of Bach's music mixed with distant vocal traditions. With signature pieces like the Monteverdi Vespers of 1610 and Bach motets alongside musical traditions from India and the Middle East, the 2024 Festival has something for everyone.

Slip Slap Trip Wack
July 26–28, 5–8 p.m.
www.vancouverpresents.com/events/slip-slap-trip-wack

The family-friendly work brings to life the imaginative worlds of 8–12-year-olds in a unique collaboration between the artists of Leaky Heaven and youth who live near the studio at the Russian Hall. The performance seats audience members on a 360-degree rotating device, which allows them to both watch and volunteer to perform in the sketches. This performance takes inspiration from *Our Gang*, a series of short comedic films from the 1920s that later became known as *The Little Rascals*. The participatory performance incorporates gags and pranks that pull from centuries-old vaudeville routines and tropes. The youth-developed project offers a fresh spin on comedy that allows kids to be kids and adults to be reminded of the joy of play.

22nd Annual Korean Culture Heritage Festival
Aug. 3, 10:30 a.m.–7 p.m.
www.koreanculture.ca

Burnaby's Swangard Stadium will host the 22nd Annual Korean Culture Heritage Festival on Aug. 3. There will be live music, vendors, food booths and more celebrating all things Korean! Check out the festival's website for photos of past festival events and more information.

Third Annual BC Dumpling Festival
Aug. 10, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.
www.bcdumplingfest.ca

The Asian Arts and Culture Society will present the Third Annual BC Dumpling Festival in the Tri-Cities. This festival is a celebration of the diverse community we live in and brings together families, friends, neighbours, community

organizations and businesses from different cultures to share food, entertainment and laughter. It is a multicultural, family-friendly event that will showcase dumpings from different cultures!

African Descent Festival
Aug. 10–11
www.africandescentfestival.com

The African Descent Festival celebrates African and African Descent culture through music, art, crafts and food. Established in 2015 by Yasin Kiraga M, it has grown to be Western Canada's largest festival for people of African descent. The event features live performances, cultural displays and a marketplace for African goods. The festival aims to foster community, promote local talents and highlight the historical and cultural contributions of the African Descent community. Check out their website for an event schedule.

Vancouver International Music Festival
Aug. 20–25
www.vancouvercompetition.com/vimf

The 2024 Vancouver International Music Festival will be held in-person from Aug. 20–25 at the VSO School of Music in Vancouver, featuring world-renowned guests for concerts, masterclasses and performance classes for students. The festival includes various instrumental categories across four age groups, open to musicians worldwide, with a gala concert on Aug. 25 showcasing top-level students. Concerto performances in the Piano, Violin and Cello categories will feature the orchestra part played by a second piano.

Answers:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1- perspective | 7- toner – pose | A) pigment – orme | G) Ceku – épatant |
| 2- image – easels | 8- notepad – urb | B) émulsions – os | H) taps – nodule |
| 3- gut – inkpot | 9- ose – situates | C) rat – noémie | I) isoètes – aère |
| 4- ml – mn – use – uv | 10- me – pale – ac | D) sg – Manet – es | J) vêt – lseut – sn |
| 5- estate – tine | 11- moisteners | E) peintures – tu | K) el – uns – réa |
| 6- ni – nudeness | 12- ese – engr | F) ed – pipe | L) sève – obscur |



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