

# SUMMER MUSIC

NOW  
IN ITS  
25<sup>TH</sup>  
YEAR!

in the  
Garden

FREE

JUN 21 - AUG 27, 2026

© Harbourfront centre

A large crowd of people is gathered on a grassy lawn in a park, watching a performance. In the background, a massive weeping willow tree dominates the scene, its long, drooping branches creating a canopy over the area. The crowd is diverse in age and attire, with many people sitting on the grass. The setting appears to be a waterfront park, with a body of water and boats visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is relaxed and communal.

# SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year, Summer Music in the Garden is an intimate live music experience by the waterfront, held Thursdays at 7pm and Sundays at 4pm throughout the summer, featuring 20 performances by JUNO Awardwinning Canadian musicians and celebrated international artists.

*Summer Music in the Garden is made possible through the generosity of our partners and donors. Special thanks to the City of Toronto and founding patron and Toronto Music Garden champion Dr. James D. Fleck. The 2026 Summer Music in the Garden program is supported by the Hodgson Family Foundation, The William and Nona Heaslip Foundation and The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation.*

# FROM THE ARTISTIC TEAM

"The less sense the world makes, the more sense music makes," says **Gregory Oh, Curator of Summer Music in the Garden.** "That's how I'm feeling – grateful that we have this beautiful space where we can listen to these wonderful artists, opening us to new ideas and cultures. Every one of us is an essential part of these things – music-making and being human collectively. We welcome all of you. Come and make music with us."

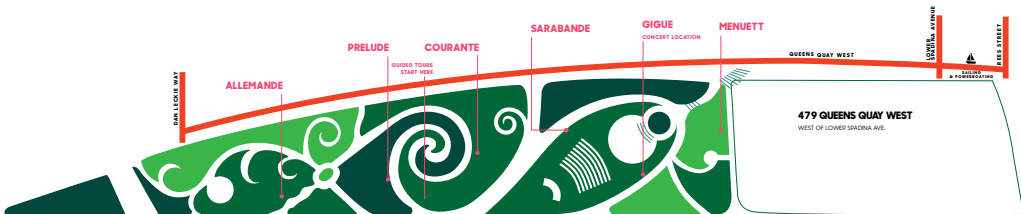


"Each year I return to this series, I choose a new guiding word to reflect the season," says **Rebecca Cuddy, Associate Curator of Summer Music in the Garden.** "This year I've chosen 'vibrant.' When the world feels dark, it is time for us to gather together, and music is that nourishing light, reminding us of our shared humanity. So, join us among the blooms. We look forward to saturating your world in radiant sound."



# FIND A PIECE OF YOURSELF HERE

"I discovered the Toronto Music Garden while walking along the waterfront and hearing a Persian folk song playing," says **Neda Mohamadpour,** an Iranian vocalist performing at Summer Music in the Garden this season. "I represent the music from my country, and it's not only about giving back to my community but also to the world. What makes the Garden special is that it's a meeting place for artists and audiences to come together in a way that feels very genuine and authentic."



## JUNE & JULY

**JUN 21**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



### THE SOVEREIGNTY OF SONG

Join versatile Métis soprano **Julie Lumsden** for a celebration of song and storytelling on Indigenous Peoples Day. Weaving art, opera, musical theatre and Indigenous music, the program includes Métis composer Ian Cusson's song cycle, "Five Songs on Poems of Marilyn Dumont."

**JUN 25**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



### GARDEN RHYTHMS: TAIKO AMONG THE TREES

With the thunderous sound of drums and delicate textures of the three-stringed shamisen and bamboo flutes, **Nagata Shachu** is rooted in heritage, while feeling boldly contemporary. With dynamic choreography and musicianship, the ensemble offers a visually compelling and sonically rich experience.

**JUN 28**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



### AND STILL WE SING... WALK TOGETHER, CHILDREN

Inspired by celebrated poet and activist Sonia Sanchez, **The Nathaniel Dett Chorale** will perform Afrocentric choral music from the body of music known as Spirituals, which encompass the gamut of human emotion and helped enslaved people sing their freedom into existence.

**JUL 2**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



### SOFREH TISCH

Pianist Pouya Hamidi, originally from Iran, and cellist Beth Silver, of Ashkenazi-Jewish descent, bring a performance reflecting **Ladom Ensemble's** spirit of artistic exchange, carrying the music of the Eastern European Jewish diaspora and the heart of The Bronx in the 1950s.

**JUL 5**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



### PAISAJES ARGENTINOS

Led by percussionist Patricio Llovet, experience the tapestry of Argentinian folk with **El Ceibo** – zamba, chacarera and cueca – weaved with jazz harmonic explorations and a chamber music sensibility. Featuring soulful vocals, charango, violin and traditional percussion, their sound is both ancient and refreshingly modern.

## MOST DEFINITELY TORONTO MUSIC

A cult hero of Toronto's underground music scene, **Alex Lukashevsky** is an inspiration for so many musicians. Accompanied by the enigmatic **Mayme Joach**, they create music full of wonder, delight and unpredictable joy through experimental folk, blues and rock 'n' roll.

## BRINGING THE HEAT

Hailing from Santiago de Cuba, two brothers blend original compositions with interpretations of beloved Cuban classics. **Montuno Cubano's** vibrant rhythms span Bolero, Guaracha, salsa, Rumba Flamenca, Sucu Sucu, Guajira and romantic ballads, offering audiences a rich taste of Cuba's musical heritage.

## FROM THE HIGHLANDS TO THE HEARTLAND

Known as a "one-man Bard," Celtic singer and multi-instrumentalist **Duncan Cameron** brings his rich vocals (in both French and English) and masterful command of the fiddle, mandolin, Irish bouzouki and more to a beautiful evening of Irish, Scottish and French-Canadian traditions.

## ACALYPHA

The **Labyrinth Ensemble** is dedicated to the ancient modal music traditions of Central, West, South Asia and the Mediterranean. Featuring instruments from tonbak to gayageum to saxophone, the ensemble reflects Toronto's unique cultural landscape and limitless possibilities for cross-cultural creation.

## SUMMERTIME SWING

The **Sweet Hots** feature the JUNO-nominated vocalist **Alex Pangman**, Grammy winner and superb violinist **Drew Jurecka** and guitar virtuoso **Nathan Hiltz** in an acoustic jazz trio setting, deeply influenced by the great traditional hot jazz sounds from the 1920s and 30s.

**JUL 9**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



**JUL 12**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



**JUL 16**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



**JUL 19**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



**JUL 23**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



# JULY & AUGUST

**JUL 26**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



## RHYTHM SPEAKS MANY LANGUAGES

Bringing South Asian rhythm, West African groove and contemporary influences together, **Agneya** creates rhythm-driven performances that feel alive. Inviting audiences into a shared experience built on groove, dialogue and connection and a live set that draws from South Asian traditions and global influences.

**JUL 30**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



## IT'S A GUT FEELING

**Elixir Baroque Ensemble**, one of Canada's leading historically informed string ensembles, joins forces with **Arparla** - Irish baroque harpist Maria Cleary and Italian violinist Davide Monti - in a program of vibrant 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-century music.

**AUG 2**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



## GATHER YE ROSEBUDS

**The Rosebud String Quartet** performs beloved works from the string quartet repertoire. Known for a warm sound balancing precision with expressive depth, the ensemble brings Haydn and Mozart to life with spontaneity, energy and a fresh sense of connection in performance.

**AUG 6**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



## IT'S A GROOVE THING

The New Orleans-inspired brass institution, **The Heavyweights Brass Band**, has brought people to their feet with their blend of original music and unexpected covers, preaching the power of New Orleans-style brass and a blend of groove, virtuosity and originality.

**AUG 9**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



## WHERE I AM IS WHAT I NEED

Indie adventurers take you on a wild and wistful journey of original song with JUNO-nominated artist **Tara Kannangara** and **Chris Pruden** performing a set of original songs using lyricism, synthesizers, a drum machine and wild trumpet melodies in an intimate performance.

## SONGS OF STOLEN CHILDREN

Combining indie pop, neo-classical and Ukrainian folk polyphony beside ancient folk songs, **Daughters of Donbas** is musically centered on the true stories of stolen children. On bandura, violin, keyboard and soaring vocals, each performance is a journey through laughter and resilience.

**AUG13**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



## YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT ME

**Madeleine Roger** is an award-winning singer-songwriter from Winnipeg, Canada. While deftly accompanying herself on acoustic guitar and a silvery voice, her true artistry as a songwriter is in her lyrical mastery of breathtaking melodies that linger long after the last note.

**AUG16**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



## PERSIAN PSYCHEDELIA

What does everyday life sound like between a distant homeland like Iran and a new home in Toronto? With vocalist **Neda Mohamadpour**, this performance explores Persian folk songs from across Iran, reimagining them through improvisation and musical exploration for contemporary audiences.

**AUG20**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



## JOURNEY TO THE MIDDLE EAST

**Al Qahwa** weaves original compositions and Arabic classics, from Sufi devotional love songs to the timeless hits of Egypt's golden age. Maryem Tollar delivers a soul-stirring performance where every note celebrates the power of music to unite and move us all.

**AUG23**  
SUNDAY 4-5PM



## BEING: PASCALKAIJA

A hybrid ensemble for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, **The Happenstancers** present a palindromic dual-portrait concert featuring chamber works by **Pascal Dusapin** and **Kaija Saariaho**, plus a premiere by **Danika Loren**. Through searing, intimate gestures, the program invites audiences into the artist's psyche.

**AUG27**  
THURSDAY 7-8PM



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**We respectfully acknowledge** the past and present traditional owners of this territory and their unique role in the life of the region. Harbourfront Centre is committed to honouring Indigenous peoples' cultural and spiritual relationships to the land and waters, and their rich contribution to society. Toronto is on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We ask that you respect the land and traditions of those who walked upon it for millennia before us.

**The Toronto Music Garden is a City of Toronto park** and is open year-round. This unique park was conceived by internationally renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy, in partnership with the City of Toronto's Parks and Recreation department. Through its landscape, the garden interprets Bach's Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007, for unaccompanied cello. For more information, visit [toronto.ca/parks](http://toronto.ca/parks)

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