

MUSIC

Experience the Uplifting Vibe Surrounding The Ottawa Grassroots Festival



Iconic folk singer/songwriters, Garnet Rogers (left) and Dave Gunning will headline at the Ottawa Grassroots Festival on Saturday, April 24th.

PHOTO OF DAVE GUNNING BY JONATHAN BEADLE

Don't miss Canadian Folk Music Award nominee, Jill Zmud, free on Sunday afternoon at The Ottawa Grassroots Festival.

PHOTO BY BAIR GABLE

By Grace Smith

With old man winter behind us, it's an exciting time to think about the warmer days of spring and the beginning of "Festival Season". The Ottawa Grassroots Festival is poised to whet your appetite for music of all types. Now in its 5th year and in a new location in Old Ottawa South at Southminster United Church, the event organizers expect to welcome a record number of visitors and volunteers April 21-24. It all takes place in a fully accessible venue, fully protected from those April showers.

Bob Nesbitt, the Ottawa Grassroots Festival Producer, has put together a program that will please visitors of all ages, ethnicities and music lovers of many genres. "We are proud to set the example for other festivals to follow by showcasing artists that perform in both of our official languages and of all abilities, cultures and ages" said Bob Nesbitt. "By being inclusive and offering participatory workshops, we bring the community together and our partnerships with Catholic Centre for Immigrants (CCI), Hummingbird Music and other groups are win-win relationships for all."

Among the headliners scheduled to appear are Garnet Rogers and Dave Gunning, iconic folk singer/songwriters from the Maritimes, rich in East Coast Music Awards and Juno nominations. Arthur McGregor with Wendy Moore and Friends will be the big draw on the Friday evening. With the closing of The Ottawa Folklore Centre in 2015, which McGregor founded and managed for 38 years, he and partner Wendy Moore will bring the community together with songs, sure to please fans and have them erupt in sing-alongs to favourites. The opening night of the festival will follow a Francophone theme and welcomes award winning artists Robert Paquette and Céleste Lévis to the Harmony Stage at Ottawa Grassroots. "There was overwhelming positive feedback at last year's festival over the Franco-Ontarian themed night. We had to do it again," said Nesbitt. The evening is sure to draw a spectrum of ages to the event, with Lévis, a 20-year-old singer-songwriter defining her course among the best in francophone music and Paquette, one of the most famous writers of the Ontario French-songwriters and internationally renowned.

The evening performances at the festival are ticketed events while the daytime programming is completely free, aimed at making the event affordable and accessible for everyone. There are scheduled performances by local favourites Jill Zmud, Propeller Dance, Kristine St. Pierre, Kate Greenland, Story-teller Kim Kilpatrick, Sophie Léger and the home-schooled children's choir, 'Sparrows', led by Chris White.

A key value of the festival is the participatory workshops it offers to visitors. Have you always dreamed of singing in a community choir? How about reciting poetry or performing at an 'open stage'? You'll never find a more supportive audience, than at this festival. That is a guarantee! And for children, there is a workshop with Ed Lawrence introducing them to gardening, a MadLab where kids learn about soldering using kits provided, in a safe and supervised environment. And parents with toddlers, yes, there is a workshop for you also. Kristine St. Pierre will lead your babies and toddlers in discovering music and movement.

Tickets are priced to be affordable and can be purchased online or

at both Compact Music locations. Full festival passes are \$45. Tickets for specific evenings are priced at \$20, \$25 and \$30 for the Thurs, Friday and Saturday performances, and children 15 years and under can attend free when accompanied by an adult. For more information, visit the festival website: www.ottawagrassrootsfestival.com.

While you are there, be sure to purchase a unique memento: The Ottawa Grassroots Festival pin. Designed and made by musician and volunteer, Mark Evenchick, the pewter pins produced in limited quantities are priced at \$5, a price everyone can afford. "With this being the 5th Ottawa Grassroots Festival, the pin has been beautifully designed to capture this milestone," adds Nesbitt. "They sell-out very quickly every year. So, be sure to buy one early."

There is an uplifting vibe that surrounds this community festival and it may very well be Ottawa's best kept musical secret. Decide for yourself on April 21-24 at Southminster United Church. The 4-day festival is a not-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteers, and is all about community.

Zak Pleet To Perform As Part Of Music At Trinity

By Fabien Tousignant,
Artistic Director

Those who have enjoyed hearing Zak Pleet perform in the DOFMS series last February will be thrilled to find

out they will have an opportunity to hear him again on April 16th at 4:30 pm as part of the Music at Trinity monthly concert series. He has prepared a varied programme featuring exciting music from composers of different parts of the world and covering five centuries. We will have the pleasure of hearing works by Luis de Narvaez, J.S. Bach, Mauro Giuliani, Alan Marsden, Vincente Asencia and Joaquin Rodrigo.

The first Canadian graduate of the Máster en Interpretación de Guitarra Clásica from the Universidad d' Alicante in Spain, Zak Pleet has performed in Canada and abroad, in presentations that have been hailed as "poetic", "full of expression" and "masterful." He is the President of the Ottawa Guitar Society, with whom he works tirelessly to promote classical guitar music throughout Ottawa and surrounding regions.

Zak also holds a Masters of Music from the University of Ottawa and a Bachelors of Music from Carleton University, and currently splits his time between Ottawa and Quebec City, where he studies with internationally renowned guitarist Remi Boucher. Zak plays two beautifully hand crafted guitars by Quebec luthier Patrick Mailloux, nicknamed "Angelique" and "Olivia".

The recital will be on April 16th, 2016 at 4:30 pm at Trinity Anglican Church (1230 Bank Street @ Cameron) with Zak Pleet on guitar. Admission is by voluntary contribution.





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**Music At Trinity
Zak Pleet on guitar
Saturday, April 16th
at 4:30 pm
Trinity Anglican Church**