



**For Immediate Release
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Vancouver International Jazz Festival Announces Plans for 2023 and First Release of Ticketed Shows

GRAMMY-winning vocalist Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, Shahzad Ismaily and American jazz quartet The Bad Plus both to play at the Vancouver Playhouse

(Vancouver, BC) – The [Vancouver International Jazz Festival](https://www.vancouverinternationaljazzfestival.com), Vancouver's signature kick-off to summer in the city, celebrates its 38th edition from Friday, June 23 to Sunday, July 2, at a variety of venues around the city. As part of this year's festival, Coastal Jazz & Blues Society announces performances by GRAMMY-winning vocalist **Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, Shahzad Ismaily** performing as their new project **Love in Exile** on June 26 and American Jazz quartet **The Bad Plus** on June 27 planned for the Vancouver Playhouse on 600 Hamilton Street in Vancouver. Tickets are available at www.coastaljazz.ca on February 16 at 10:00 am PDT.

Like other festivals and event producers, the Coastal Jazz & Blues Society has had to continually adapt in the face of challenges since the start of the pandemic. This year, the organization has had to consider rising site infrastructure and artist touring costs, as well as a previous title sponsor relationship coming to a close in 2022 due to changing priorities. As a result, this year, Coastal Jazz has opted for a smaller, more sustainable festival.

This year's Vancouver International Jazz Festival will offer a balance of free and ticketed performances kicking off with the free Downtown Jazz concert series outside the Vancouver Art Gallery and ʔənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square and culminating on Canada Day weekend at Granville Island venues including Performance Works, Ocean Artworks and the Revue Stage.

"This year will look a little different for the Vancouver International Jazz Festival," says Nina Horvath, Coastal Jazz & Blues Society Executive Director. "But what stays the same is our festival programming. We're working hard to bring local, Canadian and International artists to Vancouver, introducing some new music and hosting past favourites. We're announcing new shows and schedules over the next few months, and we encourage you all to come out and support live music."

Grammy award-winning Pakistani vocalist Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, Shahzad Ismaily performing as their new project Love in Exile on Monday, June 26 at 7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

At their 2018 debut performance, Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, and Shahzad Ismaily's immediate, potent chemistry surprised even them. Since then, in performance and on their 2023 debut album *Love in Exile*, they've kept a focus on spontaneous co-creation and complete immersion in the present, weaving bass, piano, and otherworldly vocals into a breathtakingly unified, patiently unfurling sound.

Individually, their accolades are substantial. Vocalist Arooj Aftab is the first Pakistani to win a Grammy Award, MacArthur genius Vijay Iyer is one of today's most influential pianists, and multi-instrumentalist Shahzad Ismaily's empathic playing has made him a legend among musicians like Marc Ribot, Colin Stetson, and Lou Reed. Yet the marvel here is how ego disappears completely in the presence of complete trust, and how distinct backgrounds and vast personal histories of collaboration can be offered in service of timeless beauty and sudden surprise alike.

American Jazz quartet, The Bad Plus, Tuesday, June 27 at 7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

The New Yorker was onto something when they called The Bad Plus "the Coen brothers of jazz: ironic and dead earnest, technically brilliant, beyond versatile...and pretty hard to pin down." Now in their 21st year, founding members Reid Anderson bass and Dave King drums continue to push boundaries, embarking on a piano-less incarnation that features first-call creative heavyweights Ben Monder guitar and Chris Speed tenor sax. Their 15th album, released in the Fall of 2022, doubles as a self-titled debut for the sonically adventurous new dynamic. It's the enduring chemistry of The Bad Plus, supercharged with new-band excitement. It's also a novel sonic landscape for King and Anderson to drive their cutting-edge originals through, perhaps bringing arrangements of Radiohead, Aphex Twin, Nirvana, and Stravinsky along for the ride.

As they say themselves, "evolution is necessary for life and creativity. We've evolved, but we're still The Bad Plus."

GRAMMY-winning vocalist Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, Shahzad Ismaily as their new project Love in Exile

Event: Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer, Shahzad Ismaily
Location: Vancouver Playhouse
600 Hamilton Street
Vancouver, BC
Date: Monday, June 26, 2023, at 7:30 pm
Tickets: Tickets on sale to the general public [here](#) as of February 16
Price: \$40, \$50, \$65 plus service fees

American Jazz quartet, The Bad Plus

Event: The Bad Plus
Location: Vancouver Playhouse
600 Hamilton Street
Vancouver, BC

Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 7:30 pm
Tickets: Tickets on sale to general public [here](#) as of February 16
Price: \$40, \$50, \$65 plus service fees

Access artist photos [here](#).

For more information on the 2023 **Vancouver International Jazz Festival** events and performances, please visit us on the following channels and follow #VanJazzFest:

Website: www.coastaljazz.ca
Twitter: www.twitter.com/coastaljazz
Instagram: www.instagram.com/coastaljazz
Facebook: www.facebook.com/coastaljazz

About Coastal Jazz & Blues Society:

Founded in 1985 and incorporated in 1986, the [Coastal Jazz & Blues Society](#) is a community-based, not-for-profit, charitable arts organization that has worked diligently to establish Vancouver as a centre for creating and exchanging sounds and ideas between local, national, and international music communities. The Society's mission is not only to increase the appreciation of music but to strengthen the arts community by developing special projects, artistic exchanges, partnerships, educational initiatives, community programs, and collaborations that further the art form. Ranked as British Columbia's largest not-for-profit music presenter, The Coastal Jazz & Blues Society produces the annual Vancouver International Jazz Festival and year-round concerts and has a long-standing commitment to music education with the Sounds of Youth performance stage, workshops, children's music programs, and more. The Society is proud to be a significant part of Vancouver's and B.C.'s economic engine and tourism industry, attracting over half a million people to its annual festival and generating over \$30 million in economic activity. www.coastaljazz.ca

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