



**For Immediate Release  
April 17, 2023**

**Coastal Jazz Unveils Free Jazz Around Town and a New Emcee Competition  
for the Vancouver International Jazz Festival**

(Vancouver, BC) – Coastal Jazz & Blues Society is pleased to announce free programming for the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, including 20 Downtown Jazz shows outside the Vancouver Art Gallery in the ʔxwʷʔənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square June 24 and June 25 and 25 Granville Island Jazz shows from June 23 to July 2 at Performance Works, Ocean Artworks, and the Revue Stage.

After a full day of shows on Saturday, June 24, Downtown Jazz wraps up with Lido Pimienta's mind-bending voice and live looping, leading a musical journey from traditional Afro-Colombian percussion to global bass and darker avant-garde electronic sounds. Afro-Cuban rockstar vocalist CimaFunk, a Grammy-nominated force known for keeping things fresh and funky, closes Sunday, June 25 with his nine-piece band of Havana all-stars.

Granville Island hosts other Free Jazz Around Town events including the Festival's opening night performance by The Fits + Hayley Wallis and The Bright Futures at Ocean Artworks.

New faces join the Festival's established roster of emcees with the Coastal Jazz Emcee Competition. Three winners will be selected to emcee free shows at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival. Each winner receives a \$250 cash prize, tickets to attend the Jazz Festival and Festival swag. Participants are invited to submit an audition video sharing why they would make a great emcee. The deadline for entry is May 5, 2023. Entry information found [here](#). Auditions are now open.

**[Vancouver International Jazz Festival Free Programming](#)**

**Vancouver Art Gallery and ʔxwʷʔənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square**

- Located at 750 Hornby Street
- Free shows begin at 12:00 pm with the last performance at 7:30 pm, Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25
- Free West Georgia Street stage performances by: CimaFunk, Lido Pimienta, Jesse James Bonanza, Mali Obomsawin Quartet, Brekky Boy, STORRY, Dean Thiessen's Stranger Friends Orchestra, Robin Layne & the Rhythm Makers, History of Gunpowder, Witch Prophet

**VANCOUVER  
INTERNATIONAL  
JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
JUNE 23 – JULY 2, 2023



**Ocean Artworks\***

- Located at 1531 Johnston Street, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC
- Free shows June 23 - July 2; Free Late Night Jams and DJs from 10:30 pm til late, June 30 - July 2
- Free performances by: The Fits + Hayley Wallis and The Bright Futures, See You Now, Will Clements COMPASS, Le Kors, William Chernoff Trio, Tom Wherrett Group, Rush Hour, Laura Crema & Bill Coon StringSongs, Aline's étoile magique
- Free Late Night Jams kick off with the host's performance before opening the stage up to visiting artists and local players. Opening weekend hosts include Feven Kidane Quartet (June 23), Tony Wilson with Mali Obomsawin and Konrad Agnas (June 24) and Mili Hong Trio (June 25)
- Free Late Night DJ sets on closing weekend include D V D's maximum pop euphoria/hard dance music (June 30), the Soca, dancehall, Afrobeat and hip-hop selections of DJ Nea Stone Fox (July 1), and Yu Su's dreamily melodic and balmy take on lo-fi house (July 2)

**Performance Works\***

- Located at 1218 Cartwright, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC
- Free shows run 2:00 - 4:00 pm, June 28 - July 2
- Free performances by: Joe Rainey & String Quartet, David Blake's Fun House, Caity Gyorgy, Chris Gestrin Trio, High School Jazz Intensive

**Innovation Series at Revue Stage\***

- 1601 Johnston Street, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC
- Free shows at 5:00 pm, June 28 - July 2
- Free performances by: Bruce Freedman's COLLAGE, Jessica Ackerley + KneeJerk, Ron Samworth's Etiquette of Dying, Matthew Ariaratnam & Adrian Avendaño, Giorgio Magnanensi & Andromeda Monk, Marina Hasselberg + Matt Choboter

*\*Sponsored in part by CMHC Granville Island and part of the Granville Island Jazz series.*

The 38th edition of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival will offer 140 shows, including more than 50 free performances from June 23 to July 2, 2023. The Festival kicks off with a free Downtown Jazz concert series outside the Vancouver Art Gallery and ʔxwʷʔənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square and includes marquee shows at Queen Elizabeth Theatre and Vancouver Playhouse, plus club shows at various downtown venues, and culminates on Canada Day weekend at Granville Island venues including Performance Works, Ocean Artworks and The Revue Stage.

**Access all Festival artist photos [here](#).  
Access previous Press Releases [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](http://www.coastaljazz.ca)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/coastaljazz](https://www.twitter.com/coastaljazz)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/coastaljazz](https://www.instagram.com/coastaljazz)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/coastaljazz](https://www.facebook.com/coastaljazz)

### **About Coastal Jazz & Blues Society:**

Founded in 1985 and incorporated in 1986, the [Coastal Jazz & Blues Society](http://www.coastaljazz.ca) 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](http://www.coastaljazz.ca)

### **Media Contact:**

Fawn Mulcahy

604.961.3314

[fm@fawnzcreative.com](mailto:fm@fawnzcreative.com)