



**Updated Release:
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**Vancouver International Jazz Festival Announces 40th Anniversary and
the Release of First Ticketed Shows for 2025**

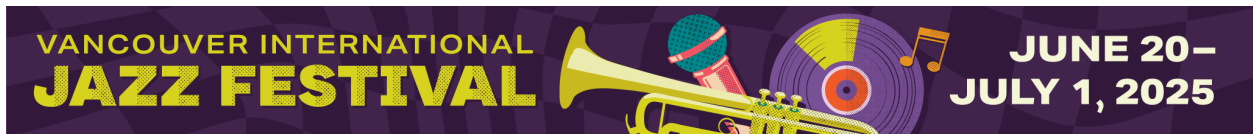
(Vancouver, BC) – Coastal Jazz is pleased to announce the 40th Anniversary and return of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, June 20 - July 1, 2025. This year's festival features headlining performances by bassist / composer Richard Bona Asante Trio on Monday, June 23, and legendary guitarist and composer Bill Frisell Trio with Thomas Morgan & Rudy Royston on Tuesday, June 24, to be held at the Vancouver Playhouse on 600 Hamilton Street in Vancouver. Tickets are available to the public at www.coastaljazz.ca on Thursday, January 23, at 10:00 am PDT.

These highly acclaimed musicians represent the depth and diversity of artist programming that Coastal Jazz is known for - Bona is a Grammy-winning bass player, composer and multi-instrumentalist in world, jazz and Afropop music; Frisell is a world-class guitarist and composer who has played the Vancouver International Jazz Festival numerous times since his first appearance in 1986. Coastal Jazz's Artistic Directors suggest that audiences can expect a full dose of joyful mastery from both these performances.

"Anyone who attended those Pat Metheny Group shows in the early 2000s should remember Richard Bona as the multi-instrumentalist virtuoso," said Cole Schmidt, co-Artistic Director, Coastal Jazz. "Richard will lead his own trio this time, which will likely generate a fun night of infectious rhythms and stunning melodic interplay."

"I first saw Bill Frisell in Vancouver with his quartet in 1997," added Jeremy Page, co-Artistic Director of Coastal Jazz. "There's something very special and surreal as I now find myself booking Bill for the 40th anniversary of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival while standing on the shoulders of our founding Artistic Director Ken Pickering, who brought him to the Festival in 1986. This performance promises to be a magical night where old memories will be reminisced, and new ones will be imagined."

The 40th Anniversary edition of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival will offer a balance of free and ticketed performances, including the return of Downtown Jazz, a free concert series outside the Vancouver Art Gallery on ʔənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square, June 21 and 22. Granville Island will be the hub for festival activity, with free and ticketed shows scheduled at Performance Works, Ocean Artworks and the Revue Stage, culminating in a slate of pay-what-you-can shows



at Ocean Artworks on Canada Day. In addition, downtown theatres, clubs, and North Shore venues will feature various live jazz performances throughout the 12 days.

Richard Bona Asante Trio - Monday, June 23 at 7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Richard Bona is a Grammy-winning musician and one of the most accomplished international bass players, composers, and multi-instrumentalists. With his unique sound and vocal gift, he is continuously representing his African origins. Bona's music addresses the continent's traditions, culture, beauty and issues. His purpose and the way he connects with his audience has turned him into a staple name in world, jazz and Afropop music. His new group, Asante Trio, is a testament to his philosophy of cultural collaboration. Joining Bona is pianist Jesus Pupo, who pays tribute to the "piano Cubano" style and its vibrant Afro-Cuban rhythmic and melodic heritage. Percussionist Harvel Nakundi provides the groove and layered rhythmic complexity inherent to the many styles that influence the group's sound.

Event: Richard Bona Asante Trio

Location: Vancouver Playhouse, 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, BC

Date: Monday, June 23, 2025, at 7:30 pm

Tickets: Tickets on sale to the general public [here](#) as of January 23

Price: \$50 - \$75 plus service fees

Bill Frisell Trio with Thomas Morgan & Rudy Royston - Tuesday, June 24 at 7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Bill Frisell's career as a guitarist and composer has spanned more than 40 years and many celebrated recordings, whose catalogue has been cited by *Downbeat* as "the best recorded output of the decade." In the trio format he's favoured throughout his career, Frisell has always projected an orchestral scope — through his remarkably complete sense of harmony, a unique gift for melodies that remain with you long after a performance, and a keen feel for how dynamic range can be used to convey emotion. But on his new double album, his fourth release for Blue Note Records, he makes those symphonic evocations a reality. Produced by Lee Townsend, *Orchestras* documents two inspired concert-hall engagements arranged by Michael Gibbs for Frisell's long-standing trio with bassist Thomas Morgan and drummer Rudy Royston: one featuring the nearly 60-piece Brussels Philharmonic, conducted by Alexander Hanson; and one with the 11-piece Umbria Jazz Orchestra, under the musical direction of Manuele Morbidini.

Event: Bill Frisell Trio with Thomas Morgan & Rudy Royston

Location: Vancouver Playhouse, 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, BC

Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Tickets: Tickets on sale to general public [here](#) as of January 23



Price: \$50 - \$75 plus service fees

Access 2025 Vancouver International Jazz Festival artist photos [here](#).

For more information on the 2025 **Vancouver International Jazz Festival** events and performances, please visit us on the following channels and follow #VanJazzFest:

Website: www.coastaljazz.ca

Instagram: www.instagram.com/coastaljazz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/coastaljazz

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@coastaljazzsociety

About Coastal Jazz:

Founded in 1985 and incorporated in 1986 as the Coastal Jazz & Blues Society, Coastal Jazz 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. Coastal Jazz's mission is to increase the appreciation of jazz music in all its creative forms and strengthen the arts community by developing special projects, artistic exchanges, partnerships, collaborations, and music education initiatives. Coastal Jazz produces the annual Vancouver International Jazz Festival, celebrating its 40th edition in 2025. Coastal Jazz is proud to be a significant part of Vancouver's and B.C.'s economic engine and tourism industry, attracting over 100,000 people to its annual festival and generating an estimated \$20 million in economic impact.

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