



**For Immediate Release**  
**March 31, 2025**

**Coastal Jazz Taps Longtime Partners for Innovative Programming**

*Historic relationships with the Western Front venue and Poland's Jazztopad Festival bring new compositions and talent to the 40th Vancouver International Jazz Festival*

**(Vancouver, BC)** – Coastal Jazz announces a performance by saxophonist/composer Immanuel Wilkins with the Lutosławski Quartet at the 40th Vancouver International Jazz Festival on Friday, June 20, 2025, at the Western Front, located at 303 E 8th Avenue, Vancouver. Tickets go on sale to the public at [coastaljazz.ca](https://coastaljazz.ca) on Thursday, April 3. Coastal Jazz is also thrilled to welcome the return of the New Improvisers Studio featuring Susie Ibarra with an open call for young musicians aged 17 to 24.

Immanuel Wilkins' performance marks the Canadian premiere of his new piece written for the Lutosławski Quartet. The composition was commissioned by Jazztopad Festival / National Forum of Music in Wrocław, Poland, which has premiered works commissioned from famous improvisers for the past 20 years.

"Since the Festival's early days, Coastal Jazz has partnered with organizations around the world to bring international artists to Vancouver for an extended immersion in our community and help to inspire creativity within our scene," said Cole Schmidt and Jeremy Page, Co-Artistic Directors for Coastal Jazz. "For these upcoming events, we are grateful to be partnering, once again, with the Western Front and Wrocław, Poland's Jazztopad Festival / National Forum of Music."

**Immanuel Wilkins & Lutosławski Quartet**

The music of saxophonist/composer Immanuel Wilkins is filled with empathy and conviction, bonding arcs of melody and lamentation to pluming gestures of space and breath. Listeners were introduced to this riveting sound on Wilkins' acclaimed debut *Omega*, which was named the #1 Jazz Album of 2020 by *The New York Times*. On his stunning sophomore album, *The 7th Hand*, the Brooklyn-based, Philadelphia-raised artist's "ocean-deep jazz epics" (*Pitchfork*) explored relationships between presence and nothingness across an hour-long suite.

# VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL



**JUNE 20–  
JULY 1, 2025**

Founded in 2007, the Lutosławski Quartet is one of Europe's foremost contemporary classical string quartets, specializing in the music of their namesake, Witold Lutosławski, as well as works by Bacewicz, Szymanowski, and the group's own Marcin Markowicz. An ensemble of versatile and open-minded artists, Roksana Kwaśnikowska violin, Marcin Markowicz *violin*, Artur Rozmysłowicz *viola*, and Maciej Młodawski *cello*)-blend contemporary repertoire with gems from classical, Romantic, and jazz music.

**Location** The Western Front, 303 E 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC  
Accessibility note: This venue does not have an elevator.  
**Date** Friday, June 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm  
**Tickets** Tickets on sale to the general public [here](#) as of April 3  
**Price** Regular - \$39 plus service fees; Student - \$30 plus service fees

*Additional support is provided by the Polish Cultural Institute New York, National Forum of Music - Poland, and the Western Front.*

## **New Improvisers Studio**

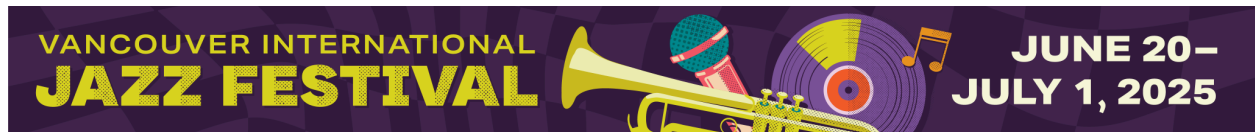
Coastal Jazz and Western Front are also pleased to present the second year of the New Improvisers Studio (NIS), a week-long educational initiative for 10 young musicians aged 17 to 24. The New Improvisers Studio supports collective explorations in musical improvisation through the mentorship of a world-leading improviser and guests from the Vancouver International Jazz Festival.

This year, the NIS will be led by 2025 Coastal Jazz Artist in Residence Susie Ibarra, who will teach workshops on improvisation and field recording related to concepts from her book *Rhythm in Nature: An Ecology of Rhythm*. The program will culminate in a performance open to the public on Saturday, June 28, at the Western Front.

For more information on how to apply for the New Improvisers Studio, visit [coastaljazz.ca](https://coastaljazz.ca).

## **Artists in Residence - Susie Ibarra and Eve Risser**

The Coastal Jazz Artists in Residence program was created to spotlight select artists' individual work while allowing them to connect with local talent and dedicated Jazz Festival audiences. Each year, Coastal Jazz invites artists to experience the festival and the city of Vancouver through public talks, collaborations, workshops, and various



outreach activities within our communities. Coastal Jazz welcomes two Artists in Residence this year - Susie Ibarra and Eve Risser.

### **Susie Ibarra**

Susie Ibarra is a Filipinx-American composer, percussionist, and sound artist. Her work encompasses performance, mobile sound-mapping applications, multichannel audio installations, recording, and production. Across her interdisciplinary practice, many of Ibarra's projects are based in cultural and environmental preservation. Her sound research focuses on the stewardship of glaciers and fresh waters, and she has published writing on the ecology of rhythm in the environment.

### **Eve Risser**

Whether venturing solo into the depths of her prepared piano, experimenting with the retro-futuristic sounds of an electric harpsichord, or exploring the expressive potential of a hybrid and modular mini big band, composer and improviser Eve Risser invents as she breathes. The stunning artistic success of her large-ensemble albums *White Desert Orchestra* (2015) and *Red Desert Orchestra* (2018) placed her among the most prominent creators on the European scene.

The 40th Anniversary edition of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival will offer 160 events, including the return of Downtown Jazz, a free concert series outside the Vancouver Art Gallery on ʔxwʔənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square, June 21 and 22. Vancouver Playhouse hosts headlining performances by Richard Bona Asante Trio and the Bill Frisell Trio with Thomas Morgan and Rudy Royston. Granville Island will be the hub for festival activity, with afternoon and evening 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 patios, clubs, and North Shore venues will feature various live jazz performances throughout the 12 days of the Festival.

**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](http://www.coastaljazz.ca)



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

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

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@coastaljazzsociety](https://www.youtube.com/@coastaljazzsociety)

### **About Jazztopad Festival:**

For the past twenty years, Jazztopad Festival (Wrocław, Poland) has commissioned music from major American and European artists, including Wayne Shorter, Charles Lloyd, Jason Moran, Joelle Leandre, Vincent Courtois, William Parker, Vijay Iyer and Terence Blanchard. Jazztopad's international creative partnerships have included such prestigious organizations as the Monterey Jazz Festival, Kennedy Center, London Jazz Festival and Los Angeles Philharmonic. ECM and Blue Note Records have released live recordings from the festival. The North American edition of Jazztopad is, first and foremost, an opportunity to get to know the most important artists of the Polish contemporary jazz scene, which is a strongly recognized brand in the world in terms of the quality of the festivals and the artistry of the featured musicians. The National Forum of Music in Wrocław organizes the project in partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute New York.

### **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 over 40 years 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, which is 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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