

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 14, 2025**

**Coastal Jazz Announces Free Programming from June 20 to July 1, 2025 during  
the Vancouver International Jazz Festival**

*Return of Downtown Jazz, a New Bentall Centre Happy Hour Series, plus July 1st shows*

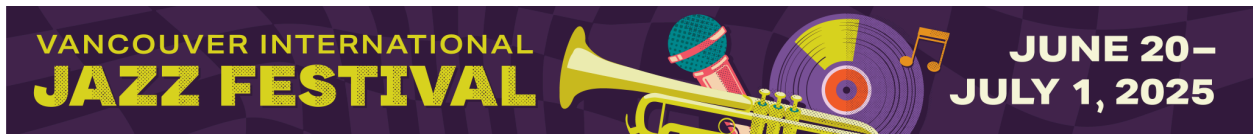
**(Vancouver, BC)** – Coastal Jazz unveils free programming for the 2025 Vancouver International Jazz Festival including the return of opening weekend's Downtown Jazz series at the Vancouver Art Gallery on ṣxw'łənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square, located at 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver; the addition of five, free happy hour concerts on the Dunsmuir Patio at Bentall Centre, located at 1025 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver; and a full day of free concerts on July 1, 2025 at Ocean Artworks, 1531 Johnston Street, Vancouver. All events are rain or shine.

Downtown Jazz kicks off the Festival's opening weekend on Saturday, June 21, with a full day of high-energy shows by local and international artists, including a headlining performance by the band Kneebody. On Sunday, June 22, Downtown Jazz continues with big band, blues, jazz and R&B on the Georgia Street stage, with a closing performance by Makaya McCraven. The weekend also features a Sounds of Youth stage, presented by Tom Lee Music and Anthem Properties, with performances by some of Metro Vancouver's best high school jazz combos, a marketplace of merchants and vendors, food trucks, games, giveaways and a licensed beer garden.

**Free Downtown Jazz - Vancouver Art Gallery and ṣxw'łənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square**

- Located at 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC
- Free shows begin at 1:00 pm, with the last performance at 8:30 pm, Saturday, June 21 and Sunday, June 22, 2025
- The [Georgia Street stage](#) located on the east end of the plaza includes performances by (Saturday) Amphibioux, Feven Kidane Sextet, Hanging Hearts, Empanadas Ilegales and Kneebody; (Sunday) Jill Townsend Jazz Orchestra, Super K, Garret T. Willie, Dawn Pemberton and Makaya McCraven.
- The [Sounds of Youth](#) stage on the west side of the plaza includes performances by some of Metro Vancouver's best high school jazz combos and big bands, presented by Tom Lee Music and Anthem Properties. Full schedule [here](#)

**New for 2025:** The Vancouver International Jazz Festival partners with Bentall Centre to host free daily happy hour concerts, beginning Monday, June 23, to Friday, June 27, 2025. From 4:00



pm to 6:00 pm each day, the Dunsmuir Patio at Bentall Centre transforms into a lively, outdoor music venue with a licensed bar.

**Bentall Centre Happy Hour Series** - Dunsmuir Patio at Bentall Centre

- Located at 1025 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver
- Free shows daily from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Monday, June 23 to Friday, June 27, 2025
- Free performances by Jonny Tobin (June 23), Parlour Panther (June 24), Colin Sankey Band (June 25), Kristin Fung (June 26), and Malcolm Aiken Quintet (June 27)

To close out the 40th edition of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, Coastal Jazz hosts a day of family-friendly, free programming on July 1, 2025 at Ocean Artworks on Granville Island with sounds ranging from New Orleans-style and Afro jazz, to surf rock and music from a 90s cult classic Japanese anime.

**July 1st Free Concert Series** - Ocean Artworks, Granville Island

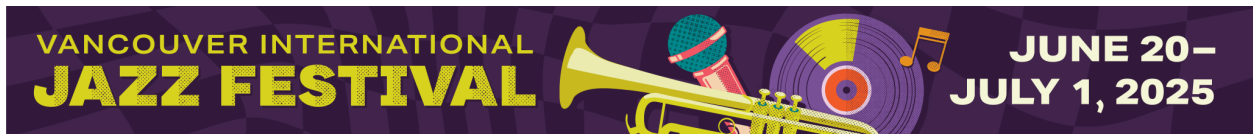
- Located at 1531 Johnston Street, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC
- Free shows on July 1, 2025, with live music from 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- Free performances by Evan Arntzen with special guest Lloyd Arntzen (12:00 pm), Feven Kidane Plays Dido & The Handpeople (2:45 pm), The ReViberators (5:30 pm), Cowboy Bebop Bebop Band (8:15 pm)

The 40th Anniversary edition of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival will offer over 180 events with 50 free shows, including the return of Downtown Jazz, a free concert series outside the Vancouver Art Gallery on ʔənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square, June 21 and 22 and a new Bentall Centre Happy Hour Series at Bentall Plaza. Vancouver Playhouse hosts headlining performances by the Bill Frisell Trio with Thomas Morgan and Rudy Royston and Richard Bona Asante Trio. 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 free shows at Ocean Artworks on July 1st. 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](#).**

**Access past photos of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival [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 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, 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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