



For Immediate Release
April 7, 2025

**Improvised Music in the Spotlight with Return of Innovation Series and 'Time Flies'
at the 40th Anniversary of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival**

(Vancouver, BC) – Coastal Jazz announces five ticketed shows as part of the evening lineup for this year's Innovation Series at the Revue Stage, 1601 Johnston Street, Vancouver, from June 25 to 29, 2025, during the Vancouver International Jazz Festival. Tickets go on sale to the public at coastaljazz.ca on Thursday, April 10. In addition, 'Time Flies', an improvised music event initially launched by Coastal Jazz in 1988, features three free late night shows from June 25 to 27, 2025, at the Revue Stage.

The Innovation Series is a long-established feature of the Festival that highlights experimental, improvisational, and avant-garde music on the outermost edges of the jazz periphery.

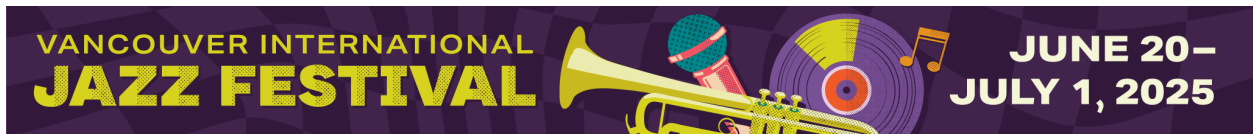
François Houle & Gordon Grdina with Izumi Kimura & Gerry Hemingway - Wednesday, June 25 - 9:30 p.m. | Tickets \$30 plus service fees

Two long-standing duos combine for an evening of sonic explorations. The creative lives of basset *clarinetist* François Houle and *guitarist/oud* player Gordon Grdina have intertwined for over 20 years in a wide variety of projects. As HELIOTROPE, they tap seamlessly into global traditions, avant-jazz, western classical music, and free improvisation. Dublin-based Japanese *pianist* Izumi Kimura and US-born, Switzerland-based *drummer/vocalist/vibraphonist* Gerry Hemingway began working as a duo in 2016. With a shared language of formal structures, spontaneous invention, and unique interpretations of song, their 2023 debut Kairos "demonstrates that music can link effortlessly across time, genres, and any preconceptions in the hands of the right performers." (*Platinum Mind*)

This performance is made possible in part due to support from the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia and Culture Ireland.

Josh Zubot Octet, Thursday, June 26 - 9:30 p.m. | Tickets \$30 plus service fees

Josh Zubot's adventurous talent alights on jazz, classical, folk, and the avant-garde's farthest fields. A veteran of Montréal's vibrant music scene (Patrick Watson, Land of Kush), the boundary-pushing *violinist/composer* found an ideal home in the genre-defying West Coast improv community. This evening is a premiere of brand-new music for his largest group to date



and marks the first performance of three Zubots together, as Josh is joined by his acclaimed brother Jesse as well as his son Klee.

[MESTIZX - Friday, June 27 - 9:30 p.m.](#) | Tickets \$30 plus service fees

MESTIZX is an eclectic and celebratory expression of post-genre, de-colonial Latinx music. Bolivian-born *singer/multi-instrumentalist* Ibelisse Guardia Ferragutti and Chicago expat *drummer* Frank Rosaly's 2024 debut on International Anthem and Nonesuch Records is "visionary music with boundaryless imagination and creativity". (*AllMusic*) Partners in marriage and art, the Amsterdam-based Ferragutti and Rosaly dive into their respective Bolivian, Brazilian, and Puerto Rican roots to create deeply personal meditations on decolonization and the defiant power of ritual and protest.

[Susie Ibarra: An Ecology of Rhythm - Saturday, June 28 - 9:30 p.m.](#) | Tickets \$30 plus service fees

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. For *An Ecology of Rhythm*, Ibarra will be joined by French *pianist* Eve Risser and locals Shruti Ramani *vocals*, Alvaro Rojas *guitar*, and James Meger *bass* to perform compositions inspired by the diversity of rhythms found in tree fractals, freshwater and oceans, and birdsongs.

[Open Thread - Sunday, June 29 - 9:30 p.m.](#) | Tickets \$30 plus service fees

The innovative Melbourne-based ensemble of *cellist* Peggy Lee, *saxophonist* Julien Wilson, *guitarist* Theo Carbo, and *drummer/percussionist* Dylan van der Schyff — weaves anthemic melodies, diverse rhythmic structures, and ear-awakening improvised soundscapes into an idiosyncratic collective identity. The group was sparked by Peggy Lee's move from Vancouver to Melbourne in 2023 and her desire to connect with local musicians in addition to longtime collaborator van der Schyff. This led to a gathering of attuned talents and a leap into the rich, joyful possibilities of a collective sound that's as challenging as it is rewarding.

[Time Flies - Thursday, June 25 - Saturday, June 27 - 11:30 p.m.](#) | Free



The return of 'Time Flies' is a nod to the early history of Coastal Jazz. Co-founder and founding artistic director, Ken Pickering created the series in 1988 and began co-curating with bassist Torsten Müller in 2001 as a "summit meeting" exploring improvisational practices. It was known for featuring local and international improvising musicians in an intimate setting, playing in unexpected match-ups and combinations.

The 2025 'Time Flies' incarnation once again features Müller as the host leading a rotating cast of past and present Festival performers over the three late night shows, including Gerry Hemingway, Izumi Kimura, Ibelisse Guardia Ferragutti, Eli Davidovici, Feven Kidane, Matthew Ariaratnam, Frank Rosaly, Eve Risser, Ron Samworth, Peggy Lee, Johanna Hauser, Nebyu Yohannes, Theo Carbo, Dylan van der Schyff, Lisa Cay Miller, Bruce Freedman, Gordy Li, and Andrea Wong.

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 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 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](#).

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

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 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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