



June 16, 2017

Plans are underway for a brand new multi-genre music festival on beautiful Gabriola Island—the Isle of the Arts!—for this Labour Day Weekend (September 2-3, 2017). Produced by the Gabriola Arts Council as part of their 20th anniversary celebrations, the Gabriola Music Fest will offer a Main Stage with more than 16 top-notch bands and performers from around the west coast, and including everything from folk to rock, blues to R&B, and reggae to family-fun. After the sun goes down, festival-goers will move into the Roxy Theatre to enjoy late-night, world-class DJs and live performance artists from around the world.

This festival of music, arts, and creative culture will be a celebration of diversity, inclusivity, mindfulness, and compassion, and—alongside awesome musical performances—will also include arts vendors, delicious plant-based food, family activities, art installations, nature and art workshops, yoga, meditation—and that’s just the beginning! Through a collaboration with Poetry Gabriola Society, you can also enjoy the work of some of Canada’s most innovative and interesting poets and performance poets.

The enthusiastic festival organizers are making some big promises: to provide a weekend-long immersion in some of the best independent, innovative, and inspired music in Western Canada; to enrich the lives of participants through the arts; to creatively inspire, entertain, engage, and invigorate the local community and those who visit the Island; to promote and honour inclusivity both onstage and off; to take care of all fellow beings through a mindful, sustainable, responsible event; and to promote empathy, compassion, happiness, a healthy spirit, and a truly positive vibe.

Gabriola Island is one of the southern Gulf Islands located in the Salish Sea, between Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Sit back and allow the 25-minute ferry ride from downtown Nanaimo to transport you to a weekend of fantastic festival vibes, on an island that features an array of stunning landscapes and endless opportunities to be in nature—whether that’s at the beach, on a trail in the woods, or in a field surrounded by other music-loving festival-goers. Gabriola’s small-town character and groovy Gulf Island ambiance—along with a collection of fun locals and a brilliant community of visual and performing artists—provides the perfect atmosphere for an amazing late-summer event. Standing on a big rock in the ocean, surrounded by good people, great music, fabulous vibes, and more art than you can imagine. Where else would you want to be?

Gabriola is already home to the renowned Gabriola Theatre Festival (every August, and featuring 8 main-stage shows, a two-day outdoor art market, and an outdoor music stage), the long-running Thanksgiving Artist’s Studio Tour (every October, with more than 80 artists at 60-plus locations), and the Isle of the Arts Festival (every April, with ten days of arts and culture workshops and programs). The Gabriola Music Fest is a natural addition to the Isle of the Arts.