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Vancouver Folk Music Festival Announces 2017 Line Up

July 13-16, 2017

Jericho Beach Park, Vancouver, BC

Info & tickets: www.thefestival.bc.ca / 604-602-9798

For Immediate Release April 26, 2017 - Vancouver, BC: **The Vancouver Folk Music Festival today announced the extraordinary line up of music artists slated to perform at their 40th Anniversary festival, July 13-16 in Jericho Beach Park.**

The 2017 edition of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival presents one of its most exciting, rich and musically diverse rosters to date in celebration of its 40th Anniversary!

Artistic Director Linda Tanaka has invited some of the festival's favourite artists from years' past to return, as well as an extraordinary lineup of first-time festival performers - well in keeping with the festival's legacy of musical excellence and eclectic discovery. From July 13-16, some of the world's finest traditional and contemporary folk, world and roots music artists will come to spend a weekend in the urban seaside beauty of Jericho Beach Park.

Around 60 music acts with roots in 20 countries, ten states and nine provinces and territories will perform on seven day and evening stages over the festival weekend. This year the festival starts on Thursday night, July 13 with a free concert in the park (details to be announced later) and runs Friday afternoon and evening, July 14, and on Saturday and Sunday, July 15 & 16 from 10am to 11pm each day.

This year's lineup includes a number of acclaimed artists well known to fans of great music, including: **Billy Bragg and Joe Henry, Shawn Colvin, Kathleen Edwards, Rhiannon Giddens** from the Carolina Chocolate Drops, and **Barenaked Ladies**. Past and recent festival favourites also return, with women's music icon, **Ferron and Her All Star Band**, BC treasure, **Roy Forbes**, African music powerhouse, **Alpha Ya Ya Diallo**, legendary labour singer, **Si Kahn**, and three more recent faves, **Marlon Williams and the Yarra Benders, Emmanuel Jal**, and the feisty **Grace Petrie**, among others slated to once again take the stage.

Fans of global sounds have much to anticipate, with groups like Congo's **Mbongwana Star**, Colombia's **Sidestepper**, **Nive Nielsen & The Deer People** from Greenland, Egypt's voice of protest **Ramy Essam**, the voodoo rhythms of Haiti's **Chouk Bwa Libète**, **Korrontzi** from Spain's Basque region, **RURA** from Scotland, and many others.

There's blues and bluegrass connections, old time acoustic and jug band music coming too: France's **Delgres** make a Guadeloupe-Delta blues connection, and **True Blues featuring Corey Harris and Alvin Youngblood Heart** lay it all down. There's **Tift Merritt's** brilliant rootsy sound, **The Slocan Ramblers'** bluegrass, New Brunswick group **Tomato Tomato's** washboard folk, and the renowned jug band sounds of **Jim Kweskin**, coming to the festival with **Meredith Axelrod**.

Australian **Archie Roach** performs his songs of struggle and healing, and we welcome a special gathering of Indigenous music trailblazers. Canadian and BC artists are also well represented, with **Bob Bossin**, **C.R. Avery**, **Jim Bryson**, **John K. Samson and the Winter Wheat**, and **Gabrielle Shonk** among others set to perform.

This year's festival that's truly global in spirit, broad and eclectic in range, with something for everyone .

A wide range of **food** and **artisan vendors**, a **Community Village** and **Little Folks Area** are all features of a festival that prides itself on its environmental awareness, sustainability initiatives, and accessibility. Around 1400 volunteers help to make the festival a success as it welcomes between 38,000 & 40,000 people to the park each year.

[Early Bird weekend passes](#) are on sale now.

PHOTOS: are available for download from the festival's website under the "[Media](#)" tab

THE FULL FESTIVAL LINE UP IS BELOW



2017 VFMF Artists/Groups: Listed in Alphabetical Order

NOTE: some artists perform all weekend, and others for one evening or one day. Details coming soon.

| | |
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| C.R. Avery | (BC) |
| Barenaked Ladies | (Ontario) |
| Blick Bassy | (France Cameroon) |
| Begonia | (Manitoba) |
| Belle Game | (BC) |
| Blind Pilot | (Oregon) |
| Bob Bossin | (BC) |
| Billy Bragg & Joe Henry | (England US) - Friday only |
| Jim Bryson | (Ontario) |
| Choir! Choir! Choir! | (Ontario) |
| Chouk Bwa Libète | (Haiti) |
| Cold Specks | (Ontario) |
| Shawn Colvin | (Texas) |
| Delgres | (France) |
| Cris Derksen | (Alberta) |
| Alpha Yaya Diallo | (BC Guinea) |
| Kathleen Edwards | (Ontario) |
| Ramy Essam | (Sweden Egypt) |
| Ellika (Frisell) Solo (Cissokho) Rafael (Sida) | (Sweden, Senegal & Mexico) |
| Ferron and her All Star Band | (BC) |
| Roy Forbes | (BC) |
| Ganga Giri | (Australia) |
| Rhiannon Giddens | (North Carolina) |
| Noah Gundersen | (Washington State) |
| Hillsburn | (Nova Scotia) |
| Matt Holubowski | (Québec) |
| ILAM | (Québec Senegal) |
| Emmanuel Jal | (Ontario South Sudan) |
| Eilen Jewell | (Idaho) |

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| Johan Blacksmith | (Denmark) |
| Si Kahn | (North Carolina) |
| Korrontzi | (Spain) |
| Jim Kweskin & Meredith Axelrod | (US) |
| Paul McKenna | (Scotland) |
| The Mae Trio | (Australia) |
| Mbongwana Star | (Democratic Republic of Congo) |
| Mélisande | (Québec) |
| Tift Merritt | (North Carolina) |
| Katie Moore | (Québec) |
| Jake Morley | (England) |
| Native North America | (BC, Ontario & Québec) |
| Nive Nielsen and The Deer Children | (Greenland) |
| Aoife O'Donovan & Noam Pikelny | (New York & Tennessee) |
| Grace Petrie | (England) |
| Archie Roach | (Australia) |
| RURA | (Scotland) |
| Clinton and Lorna St. John | (Alberta) |
| John K. Samson & The Winter Wheat | (Manitoba) |
| Andy Shauf | (Saskatchewan) |
| Gabrielle Shonk | (Québec) |
| Sidestepper | (Colombia) |
| The Slocan Ramblers | (Ontario) |
| Tomato Tomato | (New Brunswick) |
| True Blues featuring Corey Harris & Alvin Youngblood Hart | (Virginia & California) |
| Will Varley | (England) |
| Leif Vollebekk | (Québec) |
| Luke Wallace | (BC) |
| Wesli | (Québec Haiti) |
| Marlon Williams & The Yarra Benders | (New Zealand) |

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