

Vancouver Folk Music Festival July • 17–19 • 2026

Vancouver Folk Music Festival Announces Mainstage Artist Lineup July 17—19 at ʔəyalməxʷ Jericho Beach Park

Early Bird Single-Day Tickets Now On Sale

May 7, 2026, VANCOUVER, B.C. // Traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations – Over three nights, the Vancouver Folk Music Festival Mainstage will be filled with nine incredible solo artists and groups from across Canada and around the world. Single day tickets are now on sale for the Festival taking place at ʔəyalməxʷ Jericho Beach Park on **July 17 to 19** with Early Bird Weekend Passes available until May 21.

“There’s nothing more magical than watching a great performance on our Mainstage as the sun goes down and this year, we have three nights of incredible acts celebrating artistry, diversity and the joy of music,” says Vancouver Folk Music Festival Artistic Director Fiona Black. “We’re thrilled to welcome international acts like United Kingdom’s **Billy Bragg**, Australia’s **Hazlett**, Somaliland’s **Sahra Halkan**, Spain’s **Maruja Limón**, and Benin’s **BIM (Benin International Musical)**. North American artists include **Aysanabee**, **Ruby Waters**, **Tami Neilson** and **Valerie June**. This year, we’ve extended set times for each of these acts to give audiences more time to enjoy the music and are programming an incredible array of in-between sets to keep the party going on the Mainstage.”

Opening the festival on **Friday, July 17** are Ontario’s [Aysanabee](#), Australian [Hazlett](#), and Somaliland’s [Sahra Halkan](#). Take in a full day of music before the Mainstage acts take the stage on **Saturday, July 18** which include Ontario’s [Tami Neilson](#), the UK’s [Billy Bragg](#) and Ontario’s [Ruby Waters](#) closes the evening. Celebrate the closing night of the festival on **Sunday, July 19** with Spain’s [Maruja Limón](#), Tennessee’s [Valerie June](#), and Benin’s [BIM](#) (Benin International Musical).

Friday, July 17

[Aysanabee](#)

Aysanabee is a multi-instrumentalist, producer and singer-songwriter currently based in Toronto. Solemn and soaring, backed by a swirling blend of indie, soul, and electronic soundscapes, mournful saxophone and pulse-quickening finger-picking, Aysanabee’s striking sound is equal

parts hypnotic and melodic. His debut album *Watin* (2022) was named after his grandfather and shortlisted for the Polaris Prize. “*Watin* actually started out as a series of conversations between myself and my grandfather,” Aysanabee said. He is Oji-Cree, Sucker Clan of the Sandy Lake First Nation—a remote fly-in community in the far reaches of Northwestern Ontario. On March 23, 2024, Aysanabee made history as the first ever Indigenous Artist to win the JUNO Awards for Alternative Album of the Year and Songwriter of the year, for *Here and Now*, his sophomore album. This year he won JUNOs for both Alternative Album and Indigenous Artist of the Year for his 2025 album *Edge of the Earth*.

Hazlett

Sweden-based, Australian-born Hazlett returns with a new full-length album, *last night you said you missed me*. Anchored by singles like “doing my best,” “tell me something” and “queen of the season,” Hazlett divulges. From lush acoustic textures to stripped-back ballads, each track on the album unfolds like a page from a well-worn journal with themes of self-preservation, distance, yearning, and quiet hope. For the restless hearts, the gentle souls, and the dreamers, this album is both a confession and a cathartic hug. It reminds us that home is not always a place. Sometimes, it’s a song that stays a while. Hazlett invites audiences into his world of reflective songwriting and understated beauty, where every lyric feels lived, and every melody lingers long after the final note.

Sahra Halgan

Sahra Halgan is a remarkable singer, cultural force, and storyteller whose music carries the soul of Somaliland — a self-declared nation in the Horn of Africa with a rich culture and history that often goes unrecognized in the west. Sahra began singing as a teenager despite cultural pressure against women performing publicly. Living in exile as a political refugee in Lyon, France, Sahra returned to music with a trio that blends her deep Somali vocal traditions with electric guitars, hypnotic percussion, and influences from rock, Afrobeat, and North African rhythms. They created a vibrant fusion that pulses with ancient poetry and modern energy under a vocal delivery drawing on Arabic song and Ethiopian lilt. Her music celebrates love, resilience, identity, and the dignity of her people — with danceable grooves, trance-like riffs, and Sahra’s intensely expressive voice at the centre.

Saturday, July 18

Tami Neilson

Singing straight from the golden age of soul, country and rockabilly music, Tami Neilson comfortably occupies the space between Patsy Cline and Wanda Jackson with just a touch of Peggy Lee in the mix. As a young girl in Canada touring with the Neilson Family band, she worked with the likes of Johnny Cash, Tanya Tucker, and Kitty Wells. Since making New Zealand her home, Neilson has won almost every music award possible, becoming one of her adopted home country’s most beloved artists. She’s an eight-time NZ Music Award winner, including Best Country Album and Best Female Artist.

Billy Bragg

Billy Bragg is a folk icon and a working-class hero. Since his first appearance at Jericho in 1987, when he ripped up the main stage with songs about the power of unions and the solidarity possible when common people work together, Bragg has balanced his anthems that cry for social justice with love songs of raw and aching tenderness. He remains an uncompromising musical force. If you’ve seen him more times than you can count, you won’t need any encouragement to get to his performances early and to pull up a blanket in the front of the

stage. If you've never had the chance to hear Bragg before, don't even think of missing out on what will surely be a life-changing experience.

Ruby Waters

With more than 50 million streams and sold-out shows across North America and Europe, Ruby Waters is a festival must-see with her nostalgic riffs, and cutting lyrics that linger long after the last note. She is an Ontario-born indie artist whose music is as raw, playful, and honest as her live shows. Growing up in Shelburne with parents in a country band, she was performing by age 13—busking and playing bars, honing the soulful, candid style that has become her signature. Waters first broke through with her debut single “Sweet Sublime,” followed by “Supernatural” and “Last Cigarette” and quickly caught attention opening for City and Colour on his 2019 tour. She released two acclaimed EPs, *Almost Naked* (2019) and *If It Comes Down to It* (2020), the latter earning her a JUNO Award nomination for Alternative Album of the Year.

Sunday, July 19

Maruja Limón

The intoxicating Barcelona band Maruja Limón take their audiences on a voyage through the musical geography of Catalan. The group makes music that travels from flamenco and rumba on a joyous journey that incorporates *quinqui*, *mestizo*, pop, and Cuban *son*. Formed in 2014, the band writes and arranges their own songs and has played festivals around the world. This will be their first appearance in Vancouver. We are delighted to have the fire of Maruja Limón light up the Folk Fest Mainstage.

Valerie June

Valerie June brings the joy! Blending Americana, folk, gospel, soul, and blues to create something she calls “organic moonshine roots music,” June grew up in western Tennessee, a part of the world where different musical traditions meet, something that is reflected in her special sound. She is a singer, songwriter, and a multi-instrumentalist who plays banjo, guitar, and ukulele. She's also an author, a poet, and a certified mindfulness instructor who sees joy as something fierce, powerful, and radical—a form of resistance.

BIM (Benin International Musical)

BIM (Benin International Musical) is a dynamic collective of young Beninese artists dedicated to reclaiming and reimagining their country's profound musical heritage. Blending rock, rap, and traditional voodoo rhythms, BIM creates a powerful sonic experience that bridges past and present, ritual and modernity. Their performances are more than concerts—they are immersive ceremonies, charged with energy, spirit, and emotional intensity. Rooted in the historic city of Ouidah, a key port on the 17th to 19th century trans-Atlantic slave route, BIM draws from a lineage that has influenced global music for generations. With international tours spanning Europe, Morocco, Benin, and New York, BIM continues to captivate audiences worldwide. Their music celebrates voodoo culture as a force of positivity, connection, and humanity—offering a bold, authentic voice that repositions Benin on the global musical map.

More than just a music festival, VFMF is a community celebration filled with dancing, storytelling, food, artisan markets, and the stunning natural beauty of ʔə̀yalmə̀x^w Jericho Beach Park. This is the place where musical borders dissolve and the beach becomes a stage for cultural connection and discovery. Throughout the festival site enjoy a vibrant mosaic of global artistry and Canadian heart all weekend long.

Early Bird Single-Day Tickets are available to purchase now for Friday evening, and all-day Saturday and Sunday:

Adult Friday: \$70 | Saturday or Sunday: \$120
65 plus Friday: \$55 | Saturday or Sunday: \$100
Student/Youth Friday: \$35 | Saturday or Sunday: \$75
Children 12 and under FREE

Early Bird weekend passes are also available:

Adult \$225 | 65 plus \$19 | Student \$150

Book tickets through [the website](#) or contact the **Festival Box Office at 604.602.9798, ext. 302** between 10am and 4pm or boxoffice@thefestival.bc.ca. Buy early to get the best pricing and secure your spot at one of the city's most iconic and inclusive summer events. Ticket prices are subject to taxes and fees.

ABOUT THE [VANCOUVER FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL](#)

The Vancouver Folk Music Festival is a Canadian cultural institution. It is a unique community-based celebration internationally renowned for presenting the finest traditional and contemporary folk and roots music from around the world. Now in its 48th year, the Festival continues to be one of the city's most beloved, enjoyed, and respected events. Each year, the Festival draws tens of thousands of enthusiastic attendees to experience the music and culture of more than 40 international, national, and local acts.

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Photos are [available here](#). To arrange an interview, please contact:
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