

 ESTONIAN
MUSIC
WEEK — 2023

5TH
ANNIVERSARY

EXPLORE THE NEW NORDIC SOUND

MAY 24 - 28

TORONTO & HAMILTON



Estonian Music Week acknowledges and thanks the original caretakers and knowledge keepers of this territory: the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Chippewa and the Anishinaabeg, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Wendat Confederacy, and all Indigenous peoples. We honour Treaty 13 and Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant and take seriously our responsibility to peaceably share and care for the resources that surround us. We are honoured to work, create and be inspired in this meeting place called Tkaronto, together with the many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people from across Turtle Island.



Dear friends of music and Estonia,

It is with great joy that I greet you at the 4th Estonian Music Week in Canada. Music has always had a special place in Estonians' hearts. By sharing their passions, our musicians and composers have left a unique footprint in the international world of music.

During five days in May, Toronto and Hamilton will transform into a bridge between the local Estonian community and Estonian culture. Estonian Music Week introduces today's musical landscape with all its diverse identities. Ahead is an exciting musical event that encompasses both folk and jazz music and contemporary electronic compositions.

This year marks five years from the very first festival as part of Estonia's 100th celebrations. I am overjoyed that Estonian Music Week in Canada has become a strong tradition that helps introduce Estonia and our superb music to the world and creates synergy between Estonian and Canadian artists and music industries.

I thank the organizers of the festival - Estonian Museum Canada Chief Archivist Piret Noorhane and the Executive and Artistic Director Sebastian Buccioni. The network of collaboration between organizers and supporters you have created is impressive and the cultural programming is diverse and of high caliber. I would also like to thank the Estonian-Canadian community - our cultural ambassadors who introduce and carry forward Estonian culture on the other side of the ocean.

Big thanks to the performers, composers and everyone who has helped the festival to succeed. Thank you for your contribution in carrying forward Estonian music. I hope that the festival will be a memorable and enriching experience.

Wishing you wonderful musical experiences!

Heidi Purga
Minister of Culture of the Republic of Estonia

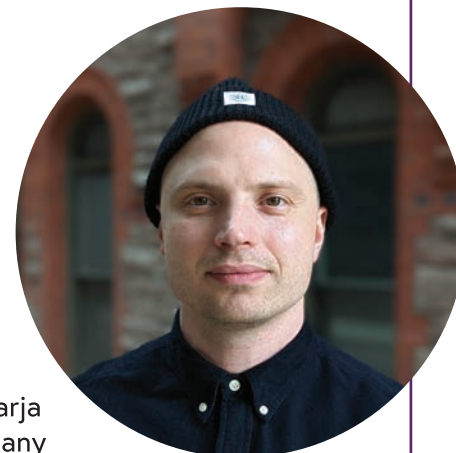
Music is balm for the soul, they say. Today's science has proven that listening to music has a good effect not only on our mind, but also on our body. Music brings people together: musicians to stages, listeners to concert halls, where they can exchange energy with each other. But music can unite entire nations. Estonians are well aware of the community-building effect of music thanks to our Song Fest tradition.



Estonian Music Week has also demonstrated this ability of music to bring together people from different ethnic backgrounds and generations and has been doing so for the last five years. It is a great pleasure that the enterprise born as a gift for the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia is progressing and developing. The circle of our partners and listeners has grown, the festival manifests itself in different formats and places, because more and more good music is created in the world. Let's celebrate those five special years together! Wishing that this festival fills our days with great music, inspiring meetings and joyous spirit!

Piret Noorhani
Festival Director

Welcome to the new nordic sound. But what does that mean? This year's artists are chosen for their boundary pushing and genre blurring sound. Drawing on influences of northern landscapes, reaching back as far as their Finno Ugric ancestors and as far forward as to sound like something from the future, we humbly believe Estonia is emerging as a new sonic leader in the region.



A special treat this year will be to see the many facets of artists like Kirke Karja and Kara-Lis Coverdale. Artists in Estonia tend to have many projects with many creative outputs so we wanted to be sure to make room to showcase that this year. Another first for EMW is our Nordic Connect Conference that runs throughout the festival. Welcome to all the delegates joining us! Canada and Estonia have so much in common and much to share with one another. I hope that the NCC will be the beginning of many future collaborations.

This year is all about partnerships. I'm thrilled to be working with new partners Wavelength, Sofar, Small World Music, Collective Arts Brewery, Constellation Creative and the Society of Estonian Artists in Toronto (EKKT), and returning partners BLOK, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and Patrick O'Reily. We appreciate them sharing their experience, creativity and audiences. I'd also like to personally thank our major funder Estonian Foundation Canada who has been supporting EMW's vision in a big way, since the beginning.

Wishing everyone a wonderful festival!

Sebastian Buccioni
Artistic and Executive Director

Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Finance



Vice-première ministre
et ministre des Finances

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

Dear friends,

I want to welcome everyone to Estonian Music Week 2023.

From the thousands of Estonians who began new lives here in the aftermath of the Second World War, to our vibrant Estonian community in Toronto today, Estonian-Canadians have been part of the fabric of our country for generations.

Whether it is young Canadians exploring the streets of Tallinn, our ever-deepening trade ties, or events like Estonian Music Week that enrich our communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast, the bonds between Canada and Estonia are closer than ever.

I am very grateful to all of the organizers and artists whom I know will make Estonian Music Week 2023 a success—and who are providing Torontonians with the opportunity to experience the remarkable culture of Canada's largest Estonian community.

With my very best wishes for a wonderful Estonian Music Week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Freeland'.

The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

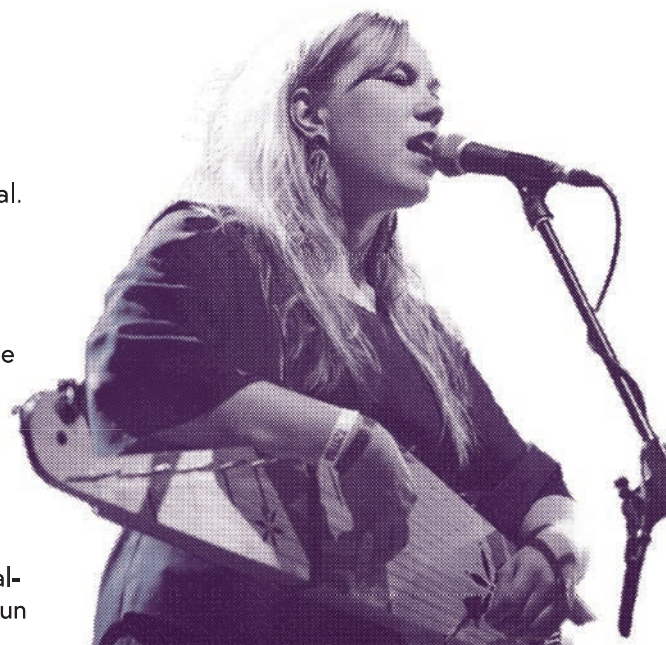
MAY 24	MAY 25	MAY 26	MAY 27	MAY 28
TORONTO		HAMILTON		TORONTO
TARTU COLLEGE 310 Bloor St. W.	ST. ANNE'S PARISH HALL 651 Dufferin St.	ST. ANNE'S PARISH HALL 651 Dufferin St.	NEST COWORKING INC 120 Hughson St.	ST. PETER'S 817 Mt Pleasant Rd
7:00 pm Launch Party	BLOK Folk Stage Doors 6:00 pm Ansambel Triskele Mari Kalkun Nastasia Y	Estonian Foundation of Canada Kunstipidu Doors 8:00 pm	11:00 am Free Artist Talks & Workshops •DIY Artist Exchanges •Making Music in the Diaspora •Folk Stories Re-mixed	11:30 am Ansambel Triskele
ANNEX HOTEL 296 Brunswick Ave.		DJs Liis Ring Kara-Lis Coverdale Erik Laar Maria Minerva DJ McHI		TARTU COLLEGE 310 Bloor St. W.
Nordic Connect Conference 6:00 pm Networking Dinner	Wavelength Electronica Stage Doors 7:00 pm Liis Ring L CON Kara-Lis Coverdale	Interactive Art Experiment by EKKT	COLLECTIVE ARTS BREWERY 207 Burlington St. E.	2:00 pm Wrap Party
MAY 17-23 Preview concerts with SoFar Sounds & Collective Arts Brewing	ST ANNE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 270 Gladstone Ave.	Immersive Sound+Light Installation by Constellation Creative	4:00 pm Camie, Tragedy Ann	
	Jazz Stage Doors 6:30 pm Marilyn Lerner & Matt Brubeck Duo Tania Gill Quartet Kirke Karja Trio	Exhibits by Riivo & Veinika	6:00 pm Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra with Ansambel Triskele, Kirke Karja, Kara-Lis Coverdale	
		Night Market	9:00 pm Mari Kalkun, Zoon	
		Sauna on Wheels		

MARI KALKUN (EST)

FOLKLORIST/STORY-TELLER/SORCERESS

A voice that seems to speak to us from the heart of the Estonian forest, Mari Kalkun's music is at once of a place and deeply personal. Rooted in ancient Estonian and Võru traditions, and played on a variety of instruments including kannel and accordion, her music resonates deep within us to touch our spirits, our souls.

As of 2019, Mari Kalkun has released five full-length albums and one EP in Estonia, Europe and Japan. She has worked as a soloist in projects with acclaimed orchestras and choirs as well as toured through Europe and Japan. Her newest full-length album "Ilmamõtsan," received widespread coverage and recognition by international media and was included in the Top 10 best world albums of 2018 by The Guardian. Her latest EP is "Apple Orchard Album" has received much acclaim both in Estonia and internationally. Combining folk traditions with innovative songwriting, Mari Kalkun is one of the most forward-looking folk artists today.



ANSAMBEL TRISKELE (EST)

KEEPERS OF ANCIENT FOLK SONGS

Ansambel Triskele is a vital folk music group from Estonia - five men who share a deep interest in folk hymns, early music and ancient rune singing. In addition to Estonian folk hymns, Ansambel Triskele has been inspired by the rich heritage of age-old folksongs and the music of European middle ages. In compositions, they have brought together different singing styles and a variety of musical instruments representing both Estonian traditional music and European early music. Ansambel Triskele is: Tarmo Tabas - vocals / Ergo-Hart Västriik - vocals / Heikki-Rein Veromann - flutes, bagpipes, jew's harp, vocals / Toivo Sõmer - lute, oud, mandola, zithers, vocals / Janno Mäe - percussion, bells, zither, vocals / Jaanus Roosileht - fiddle, rebec, bowed harp, vocals (until 2010).



NASTASIA Y (UKR/CAN)

SLAVIC FOLK/SOUL/POP

Nastasia Y [nas-TA-s'yah] is a Ukrainian-born pop-jazz artist based in Toronto, Canada. This multilingual singer & keyboardist seamlessly blends her Slavic roots with contemporary ideals – incorporating electronic textures, soul, funk, rock, and influences from around the world to create her sound. Her music is rooted in the ancestral grief and wisdom of her past while embracing a modern inter-connected future.



SEE THEM AT THE FOLK STAGE - MAY 25

📍 ST. ANNE'S PARISH HALL



KARA-LIS COVERDALE (CAN)

BORDERLESS SONIC EXPLORER

Kara-Lis was born in Burlington, Canada, and began studying piano at an early age at the Royal Conservatory of Music. She has held positions as organist and music director at several churches across Canada and has gone on to complete degrees in musicology and composition. Driven by a patient devotion to sonic afterlife, memory, and material curiosity, Kara-Lis Coverdale's dynamic work occupies new planes built upon a borderless understanding of electronic music with roots in several interlocking musical systems and languages. Her most recent recorded release, *Grafts* (Boomkat, 2017), is a set of three pieces in long form that highlight the composer's distinct approach to digital-based ratio tuning. Coverdale's live shows evoke the unpredictable, chaotic, eerie, dynamic, and confrontational; all for which she has earned a steady reputation as a festival favourite (The Guardian, The New York Times, RA, The Fader) as a highly dynamic and explorative artist.

L CON (CAN)

ALT-POP DRAMATIST

Lisa Conway-Bühler (b. 1988, Canada) is a Swiss-Canadian composer, sound artist, songwriter, producer, and mix engineer. She is an artist who continually tries to push herself into the unfamiliar. She holds a BFA Honours in Music from York University, and an MA in Sonic Arts from Queen's University Belfast, where she graduated with distinction. She is an alumni of the final Red Bull Music Academy (2018, Berlin) and the Canadian Film Centre's year-long Slight Music Residency (2016). Her recordings have been described as "ethereal, minimalist, experimental, unnerving...and downright elegant" (AUX). She is an artist who continually tries to push herself into the unfamiliar. Her multifaceted CV includes original scores and songs for documentaries, short films, and theatre productions, site-specific multi-channel sound and light installations, collaborations with contemporary dancers and performance artists, and an array of renowned creative residencies.



LIIS RING (EST/SWE)

BIRDWATCHER/(SOUND)ARTIST/IDEALIST

Liis Ring is a musician, (sound) artist and photographer who divides her life between the west coast of Sweden and the southeast corner of Estonia. Her music balances between the genres of art pop, singer-songwriter and ambient where field recordings are blended with electronic and acoustic instruments. Her live sets are a mix of pre-composed and improvised material, taking the audience on a vivid journey across genres. Liis Ring has performed as a solo artist in 12 different countries, created music and sound design for several theatre productions and released two LPs and two EPs. Her albums have been well received by local music critics and brought her a following among the Estonian alternative scene. Two new releases are due in 2023, the first one on Breton Cassette/Canigou Records of Norway/Spain in April and the second on Õunaviks of Estonia in early autumn. In addition to solo performances and writing music, Liis is currently doing a BFA in photography in Gothenburg, which has made her experiment more boldly across mediums. She previously has a degree in music and sound production.



SEE THEM AT THE ELECTRONICA STAGE - MAY 25

📍 ST. ANNE'S PARISH HALL



MARIA MINERVA (EST/USA)

GENRE-BENDING/DANCEY/TRANCEY/DJ SET

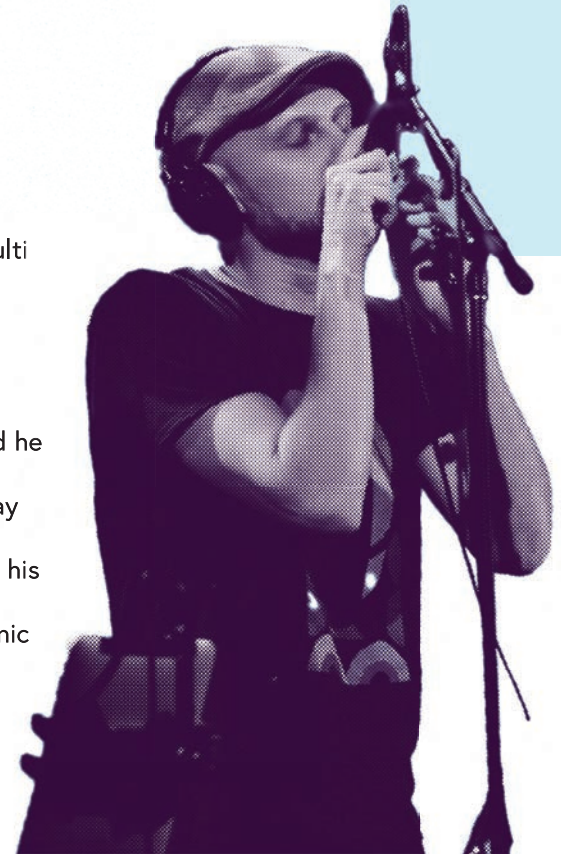
Maria Minerva is Maria Juur, producer, singer, DJ, and activist born and raised in Tallinn, Estonia. She now lives in Los Angeles, California. Maria has been featured in The New York Times, NPR, Vice, Pitchfork, Interview Magazine, I-D, Dazed & Confused, Vogue and countless other media outlets. She is the recipient of two Estonian Music Awards and was named a seminal Los Angeles artist by The Guardian. In addition to her music career, Maria is a seasoned activist and nonprofit professional currently working to organize low-wage workers in the city of Los Angeles.

ERIK LAAR (CAN)

TURNTABLIST TIME TRAVELLER

Toronto born and raised with Estonian roots that run deep. Experimental multi genre producer, vocalist, DJ and instrumentalist.

Erik Laar has returned to the stage under his own name with a brand new deeply personal focus inspired by connections to his cultural roots. Digging through the stacks of dusty wax in the Estonian Museum Canada (VEMU) archives, an encounter with fragments of the past sparked a connection and he began experimenting with new ways of interpreting the Estonian Regilaul tradition. What began as a one-off live-stream performance in 2021 gave way to a festival appearance and is now the foundation of his forthcoming EP (spring 2023). Using his finely tuned turntablist techniques as a catalyst for his musical expression is what defines Erik's unique studio production and live shows. The continuous goal: to create a symbiotic balance between electronic and acoustic, digital and natural. Big, bad beats with a soft side.



DJ MCHI (CAN)

ETHNOMUSICOLOGIST/SONG COLLECTOR/DIGITAL FOLK DJ

DJ Mchi is the alter ego of James McKie, a Toronto based multi-instrumentalist, singer, ethnomusicologist, producer and DJ. When not touring internationally as a fiddler with Lemon Bucket Orkestra or as a sea shanty singer with Pressgang Mutiny, he has been delving deep into his love of production and DJ culture. Most recently, DJ Mchi has been creating and premiering mashups featuring Ukrainian vocals overtop Dancehall riddims at The Opera House, Drom Taberna, and many other venues.

HEAR THEM AT THE ART PARTY - MAY 26

📍 ST. ANNE'S PARISH HALL



KIRKE KARJA TRIO (EST)

GROUNDBREAKING EXPERIMENTAL IMPROVISERS

Karja/Renard/Wandering is a brand new international ensemble focusing on experimental improvised music. They started playing together in 2019 and in summer 2022 they released their dynamic debut album named "The Wrong Needle". The Trio is led by the vigorous and awarded Estonian pianist Kirke Karja. Together with German bassist Felix Henkelhausen and German drummer Ludwig Wandering they focus on extended techniques, elements from free improvisation and contemporary composition. The trio gets their inspiration from old creepy silent films and broken machines.

MARILYN LERNER & MATT BRUBECK DUO (CAN)

PIANO CELLO SOUND SCULPTURE

Jazz pianist/improviser Marilyn Lerner performs to acclaim internationally, from her native Montreal to Havana, from Jerusalem to Amsterdam and the Ukraine. Her musical career has been marked by a deep exploration of traditional and free jazz, new music tinged improvisation, and Ashkenazic folk music. Matt Brubeck is a JUNO award-winning performer/composer/educator specializing in improvisation on the cello. Raised on jazz and classically trained at Yale, Matt is at ease in multiple genres and has taken his cello improvisation skills into diverse musical territories.



TANIA GILL QUARTET (CAN)

LYRICAL/WILD AVANT-JAZZ

Pianist and composer Tania Gill's name will undoubtedly be familiar to anyone that's been keeping a close eye on Toronto's jazz and experimental scenes over the past two decades. The Tania Gill Quartet is a primary vehicle for her writing and playing. The group launched their debut Bolger Station (Barnyard Records) in 2010 to numerous accolades including a nomination for 'debut album of the year' in The Village Voice jazz critics' poll, and a spot on The Globe and Mail's top 10 discs of the year. Their 2022 recording Disappearing Curiosities, mines Gill's polar fascinations—pensive lyricism and playful angularity, with compositions ranging from thoughtfully melodic to wildly edgy. Of it, the Wire says, "her subtly coruscating second release as leader is a revelation." The band includes bassist Rob Clutton, whose duo recording with Tony Malaby was hailed by DownBeat as "expansive and sensitive in spirit"; drummer Nico Dann, an imaginative presence in the group and described as "fiendishly precise" by Pitchfork Magazine; and special guest for this concert, the legendary exploratory and engaging Brodie West (of Eucalyptus, The Brodie West Quintet, Ways and The Ex) on woodwinds.

SEE THEM AT THE JAZZ STAGE - MAY 25

📍 ST. ANNE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

HAMILTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (CAN)

Experience the full spectrum of the symphony with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO). From beloved classical masterworks and internationally acclaimed guest soloists to provocative contemporary pieces and world premieres, they have something for everyone.

The May 27 concert features one Canadian premiere: a piano concerto by Kirke Karja; and two world premieres: an arrangement of early music pieces by Ardo Ran Varres and a composition by Kara Lis Coverdale*, both specially written for this performance.

*Commissioned by Alan Teder in memory of Velda and Ingvar Kattemaa

ZOON (CAN)

POLARIS PRIZE SHORT-LISTED MOCCASIN-GAZE

Zoon is a Canadian shoegaze band from Hamilton, Ontario, whose core member is Anishinaabe musician Daniel Monkman. They are most noted for their 2020 album *Bleached Wavves*, which was a shortlisted finalist for the 2021 Polaris Music Prize. The band, whose music blends shoegaze rock with elements of traditional First Nations music in a style which Monkman refers to as "moccasin-gaze", features a varying lineup, with its current members being guitarist Daniel Wintermans, bassist Drew Rutt and drummer Andrew McLeod.



TRAGEDY ANN (CAN)

FORWARD-LOOKING FOLK DUO

Braiding organic vocal harmonies with organ, accordion, singing saw, and guitars, Tragedy Ann's arrangements are as delicate as they are driving. Their concerts emanate "...the honesty and enthusiasm of people who can't help but create and perform." (Jon Farmer, *Georgian Bay Roots*). With their new album *Heirlooms*, Liv Cazzola and Braden Phelan issue a call for deeper connection with each other and with the natural world. Tragedy Ann has performed at such venues as the National Arts Centre, Haliburton Folk Society, Brampton Folk Society among many others. In addition to their musical endeavours as a duo, they can also be seen on-stage with *The Lifers*, heard on their peers' albums, and found facilitating songwriting workshops and music lessons.



CAMIE (CAN)

AMBIENT FOLK SONGSTRESS AND POET

Toronto-based singer/songwriter and multi-award-winning storyteller Camie has long enchanted audiences with her delicate queer-feminist croonings, rich vocal tones, and lush poetic imagination. Combining traditional folk stylings with contemporary experimental alternative/pop textures, Camie's original music bridges acoustic and electronic sonics, centering poetry and storytelling as its emotive vessels. A Folk Music Ontario and Hamilton Music Award winning songstress, Camie erupted onto the Canadian Folk scene with her 2021 alternative folk concept EP, *troubadour*, most recently nominated for the New/Emerging Artist award at the 2023 Canadian Folk Music Awards.



HEAR THEM IN HAMILTON - MAY 27

📍 COLLECTIVE ARTS BREWERY

ESTONIAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA

KUNSTIPIDU/ART PARTY

MAY 26 📍 ST. ANNE'S PARISH HALL

The Art Party will immerse you in sounds and sights through live performances, DJs, sound+light installations and interactive art exhibits.

- DJ sets by Kara-Lis Coverdale, Liis Ring, Maria Minerva, Erik Laar & DJ McHI
- Live performances by Mari Kalkun & Ansambel Triskele
- Night market with local vendors and a Nordic sauna experience
- The exhibition "Women with Headcovers"

RIIVO (USA)

Working in oils and spray paint, Riivo Kruuk's work explores Estonian folklore and traditional clothing fused with contemporary motifs and pop culture. Using graffiti to represent the colorful grit of where he grew up, Riivo paints his figures decorated in embroidery-esque and graffiti tag-like adornments, painting both men and women in similar fashion, simultaneously creating a unity and duality in his work. Riivo Kruuk was born in 1998 and grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor in Fine Arts with Focus in Painting in 2020. Since graduating he continuously gathers a list of group shows in Charleston, Miami, and NYC. Currently living and working in Charleston, SC, USA.



EKKT (CAN)

INTERACTIVE ART

The Society of Estonian Artists in Toronto (EKKT) invites you to create your own cultural story using art materials. Join in on a long rolling canvas to let your art speak about who you are. What colours, textures, photos, symbols, small found objects and beads, blend together to say something about your cultural heritage? Your image, your art signature, can say as little or as much as you would like. The long canvas is representative of the traditional Estonian "vöö" or folk belt that helps to identify national pride. The belt strengthens the back of the wearer and components of it can represent important elements of family history. The long narrow roll of canvas will be available on tables set up on the side of the main event floor. All art materials will be available close at hand with an EKKT member to assist when needed. Be inspired to paint, draw, glue and sew your own iconography into the interactive art work as you listen to music!



CONSTELLATION CREATIVE (CAN)

RECYCLED LANDSCAPES

Recycled Landscapes is an immersive art installation that explores the themes of spring, rebirth and sustainability. The installation features visual projection artwork by Steve Niilo and a soundscape by Shawn Rompre and Yasmine Shelton composed of ambient sounds and music made from reimagined and repurposed materials. The custom-designed lighting and sound create an immersive environment that guides visitors through the joy and creative possibilities of springtime and rebirth to the loss and self-reflection of death in winter.

NORDIC CONNECT CONFERENCE

New to EMW for 2023, the Nordic Connect Conference is a series of events throughout our 2023 Festival designed to connect people and music. **The focus is to promote collaboration between Canada and Estonia (and its Nordic and Baltic neighbours).** The conference aims to serve both music enthusiasts as much as music industry professionals. The conference kicks off with a welcome dinner on May 24 and continues throughout the festival.

MAY 24+25

Music Industry Professional Presentations and Networking Events

Welcome dinner sponsored by the Estonian Embassy in Ottawa

MAY 27

Free Programming for Musicians and Music Enthusiasts

📍 NEST, Hamilton

WORKSHOP: DIY ARTIST EXCHANGES

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

DIY doesn't need to be a bad word... and it may just be the right approach for you when it comes to getting a foothold in a new market. Whether you're thinking of a foray into a new part of the country or a new country altogether, this one's for you. A panel of experts with experience in market development in Canada, UK and Europe talk about strategies to develop artist networks and relationships to take charge of your own market development initiative. The key to this approach is introducing yourself to a market before you even arrive and then integrating yourself in the community during your visit. We answer questions like "When do you need to bring in experts?", "How can you target funding?", etc. We'll also explain how to steer clear of potential disasters.

Speaker: Neil Pearson, Owner of Sounds Just Fine

PANEL: MAKING MUSIC IN THE DIASPORA

Diaspora communities exist all over the world. With the movement of people, there is also the movement of culture. Artists in diaspora communities work in a unique set of circumstances that often involve competing pressures. Artists are expected to preserve traditions yet evolve, to connect with the homeland and with the new home, to heal and to remember. Artists share their journey and the art they have created. **Speakers: Maria Minerva, Artist and Activist and Liis Ring, Multi-disciplinary Artist**

PANEL: FOLK STORIES RE-MIXED

Perhaps more than ever before, artists are turning to their cultural roots for inspiration and guidance. From styles and techniques to stories and legends, the artists in this panel are in touch with their past and look to the future in creative and innovative ways. We talk to these artists about the responsibility of working with these cultural roots, their motivations to innovate and learn about some of the stories behind the music. **Speakers: Mari Kalkun, Zoon**

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MARIA MINERVA | ERIK LAAR | DJ MCHI
MARILYN LERNER & MATT BRUBECK
TANIA GILL QUARTET | KIRKE KARJA TRIO
ZOON | CAMIE | TRAGEDY ANN
HAMILTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

LISTEN ON SPOTIFY



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