



Live performances on the stage

Québecor Stage

On Place des Festivals, evenings from August 6th to 10th will be devoted to major concerts, with a variety of entertainment throughout the day, taking place in a setting perfectly suited to the striking symbols of First Nations cultures: giant teepees, caribou, artisan stands, and more.

Each performance will be accompanied by the **Manitou Singers**, who will perform traditional drum music. The show *The Song to the Whales* will kick off the program with two consecutive performances on August 6th and 7th, starting at 8:30 p.m. *Song to the Whales*, a grand spectacle that is a love song to the extraordinary marine life of our oceans. This staged musical installation invites the audience to surrender to the waves of gongs and let themselves be enchanted by the powerful voices of renowned Inuit throat singers Lydia Etok and Nina Segalowitz, whale dreamer and singer Bunna Lawrie (Mirning Elder) and, from Aotearoa/New Zealand, the singer Whaia Maori Sonic Weaver. Musically, this show occupies a third space between the traditional and the contemporary, and features kaleidoscopic colors created by the blend of instrumental music, the gong orchestra (led by iconic Australian percussionist Michael Askill) and new instrumental music composed by Corrina Bonshek (Australia) and Katia Makdissi-Warren (Canada), inspired by the cycles and patterns of nature.

On Friday, August 8th at 8 p.m., **Steve Einish**, aka **Kong**, is a Naskapi and Cree Music Artist, Event Organizer and Entrepreneur, will be the opening act. Then, starting at 9 p.m., 1876 which was formed in early 2020 and immediately debuted the EP "Pow Wow Punk Rock." With notable sounds that any pow wow goer will recognize, combined with the aggressive guitar playing, catchy melodies, and political lyrics of the punk world, 1876 expresses their unique perspective as "the city ndns your aunty warned you about." 1876 proudly represents both the Northern Cheyenne and the Blackfeet nations, singing in both languages. From sweat lodges to punk clubs, 1876 helps shed light on a narrative often neglected by the music industry.

On Saturday, August 9th, three artists will take the stage after the Manitou Singers' drum call. From 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., **Native Mafia Family**, a hip-hop group from Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, will perform. This collective includes eleven members of the Innu nation, all from different backgrounds. At 8:30 p.m., the stage will belong to **Shauit**, a renowned Quebec artist who is undoubtedly the only singer-songwriter to ingeniously blend reggae, dancehall, and soul with Innu-aimun, his native language. Starting at 9 p.m., **Maten**, made up of Samuel Pinette, Mathieu Mckenzie, and Kim Fontaine, is an Innu group from Mani-utenam. Respected by their peers and recognized by the public for many years (nominated at the 2019 ADISQ Gala), **Maten** offers a show with alternative and festive folk-rock sounds. One of Maten's defining characteristics is their commitment to their community, their language, and their Innu roots in their lyrics. The lyrics convey their values and culture, as well as their pride in their identity.

Sunday, August 10th, a special appearance by **Bunna Lawrie**. Whaledreamer, songman, storyteller...these are just a few ways in which Bunna Lawrie represents the Mirning Aboriginal tribe and tells the story of his country and fight for land and sea protection along the Great Southern Reef. Born and raised along the Nullarbor at the head of the Great Australian Bight, Lawrie adopted his community's culture, laws and tradition at an early age growing up to be a Mirning senior elder and medicine man. A natural poet, he loves to tell the Creation story and help people to understand and appreciate the way he does. With the whale being sacred to the Mirning people and the tribe's *totem*,

he has used them as a symbol in recent years while campaigning against big oil and gas exploration within the Bight.

Starting at 9 p.m., the **Forestare** guitar ensemble composed of 12 guitars and double bass, will close out the major concerts on the Quebecor stage and will accompany the poetic texts and songs of Jacques Newashish, an Atikamekw artist, and Andrée Lévesque-Siouï, a Wendat artist. Since its inception, the ensemble has participated in the creation of close to 50 original works and has adapted nearly another 100 for its unique make-up. In doing this, the ensemble has created the largest repertoire of music for guitar orchestra in the world. The group has released three albums to date. The first two were released with the label, ATMA Classics. Both albums were welcomed to much acclaim from critics and audiences alike. The first self-titled release garnered a Félix in the category “Instrumental Album of the Year” in 2007. It also led them to present their concert “*De l’arbre à la guitare*” in more than 50 concert halls throughout Québec, in several music festivals in France, Chili and in many reputable concert halls throughout Canada. The album, *Forestare Baroque* was produced by the renown André Perry and recorded by sound engineer, René Laflamme. The album was number one for over a month on sales charts across several high-definition recording websites in countries such as Germany, Japan, England, and the United States. Forestare has presented their baroque program more than 20 times throughout Quebec and Toronto. Feeding off of this experience, Forestare is again pushing its boundaries with the adaptation of several grand works from composers Debussy, Ravel along with Germaine Taillefer. These impressionistic works will share the program with current French guitar composers Roland Dyens and Arnaud Dumond. The ensemble is currently working on their new opus along with a multimedia show based upon this new project.

Jardins Gamelin

On Friday, August 8th, a major concert will take place at this venue at 5 p.m., featuring **DJ Pøptrt**, a renowned Indigenous artist from the Mohawk Nation of Kahnawá:ke. Her music blends her Kanien’kehá:ka heritage with contemporary electronic music, resulting in a truly unique and captivating aesthetic. At 7 p.m., the opening act will be **Beatrice Deer Band**, whose repertoire includes traditional Inuit throat singing and contemporary music, including folk, pop, and rock. At 8:30 p.m., the second part of the concert will be performed by **Shauit Full Band**. A renowned Quebec artist, Shauit is undoubtedly the only singer-songwriter who ingeniously blends reggae, dancehall, and soul with Innu-aimun, his native language. Before and after him, **DJ Pøptrt** will return to the stage to end the concert at 11 p.m.

In addition, every Friday at noon in August, artists with varied repertoires will perform. **Pako**, a singer-songwriter from the Atikamekw community of Manawan, will kick off this series of concerts on Friday, August 1st. With a solid and masterful folk-rock style, Pako performs the lyrics he writes in his native language. On the 8th, it will be **Native Mafia Family**, a hip-hop group from Uashat mak Mani-Utenam. This collective includes eleven members of the Innu nation, all from different backgrounds. On the 15th, **Eadsé** will perform as a duo. Eadsé, which means “my good friend” in Wendat, is a Wendat singer-songwriter based in Montreal. Heir to the traditions of her ancestors, she draws inspiration from her grandfather, who was from the wolf clan and the crow family. On the 22nd, **Esther Willow** will perform. Since coming to Montreal for FIPA in 2015, Esther Willow has been on a journey of musical self-discovery. On the 29th, the closing concert of the series will be presented by **Malorie Yawenda Picard** of the Wendat nation, a multidisciplinary artist whose current exploration spans geopoetics and mediation, with a focus on decolonizing ways of understanding the world.