

Celebrity Stage (Presented by OLG) Bios

Aphrose

Aphrose is an independent Soul artist from Toronto, Canada. Raised in the culturally diverse neighbourhood of Scarborough, Aphrose's musical tastes were shaped by the various genres present in her Trinidadian household. Soul and Gospel are obvious influences, while she is also inspired by traditional styles such as Soca, Calypso, Reggae but also Bollywood soundtracks and even Country. Aphrose has a reputation in Toronto for her powerful and soaring R&B vocal stylings fronting and supporting the many bands and artists she performs with. Aphrose released her first single, 'The Middle' in June of 2017 and 'Move On' in February 2018, and is making waves with her music amongst fans and critics alike. Aphrose combines powerful vocals with her love for live instrumentation, to create music that illustrates her reverence for not only soul iconoclasts like Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder, but also the influence of contemporary artists like Sza and Teyana Taylor.



Nate Daviau

Hailing from the North, inspired by the South, Nate Daviau (pronounced Dav-ee-o) is a Toronto-born, artist and songwriter. Nate is an engaging performer who has a natural and easy connection with people. A Country artist inspired by Alt-Country greats like Chris Stapleton and Jason Isbell, Nate has broad interests from Pop, Folk, Gospel and Jazz which influence his music. Nate's distinctive voice, meaningful turn of phrase and lyrical ease partner with hook oriented melodies to make his songs catchy and memorable. Nate is also a prolific writer and enjoys collaborating with several artists in various formats and genres.



Jammer's Waffle House

Jammer's Waffle House is an Indie Rock Pop band founded through a strong passion to make music and entertain. They always provide a high energy and fun set that engages the audience no matter the age or size of the crowd. The band has opened for performers like City and Colour, USS, IllScarlett and many more, and is currently heading back into the studio to work on a pair of new singles.



Mike Riley

Mike Riley is a songwriter living in West Toronto. He hasn't let being born with a club foot in a small one store town, or a divorce, stop him from pursuing his passion for music. Early on, Riley picked up the guitar when all his friends were skateboarding. Music was his way into the crowd and like most teenage boys, girls were the motivator. If they couldn't watch him kick flip at least he could learn their favourite song. Riley was a natural songwriter and soon dropped the Dashboard Confessional covers and started writing and recording entire records in his high school bedroom. After high school, a few DIY tours and some mild Myspace fame - Riley moved to London (ON) for College. He thought it was time to try and make it as a professional - got a job with the bank and considered starting a family. But the musical itch never left. With painfully relatable lyrics and hooks catchier than ever, his music always focuses on telling a story.



Miss Asia Canada

The Miss Asia pageant, originating in 1985, is the world's largest Asian oriented beauty pageant and the world's fourth largest beauty pageant, offering a grand prize of 3 million dollars (HKD). The final competition is held in Hong Kong. Semi-final competitions are held annually all over the world. The winner of each semi-final will be entered into the final competition in Hong Kong. It aims to unite all Asian communities and exhibit each group's cultural qualities. The winner of the Miss Asia Toronto title receives an all expenses trip paid to Hong Kong. Moreover, she will enter into the Miss Asia Final in Hong Kong for an opportunity to win the grand prize of 3 million dollars (HKD).



Steven Taetz

Steven Taetz is a rare talent, effortlessly making beautiful and captivating Jazz songs with a hint of Pop! He is a singer/songwriter who has performed at a variety of notable places, such as New York's Carnegie Hall, Toronto's Rogers Stadium, Montreal's House of Jazz and many more. Having received praise and admiration from the press and professionals in the industry, Steven continues to produce unique and honest music that allows the audience to connect to both him and his lyrics.



Accolades

The Accolades are an 8 piece Funk-Fusion band taking over their hometown, Toronto. Having spent years honing their skills in some of the best music programs in the city, and in some of Toronto's most renowned venues, the collective has cultivated a unique upbeat sound that incorporates elements of Progressive Rock, Funk, Jazz, and RnB music. The outcome has proven to be furiously dynamic and packed with energy, providing a live experience likely to make you move those hips! Since being signed to the independent label Akashic Rekords in early 2018, the Accolades have been working on the release of their second EP, "Whatchu Got", a followup to their debut self titled and self released EP.



Huttch

In the blanket-covered walls and strung lights of a basement in Windsor, Ontario, an Indie Rock power trio known as HUTTCH was formed in 2014. Drawing influences from bands such as Hollerado and Yukon Blonde, their music is a blend of danceable fast paced Rock with a psychedelic touch. With gear spiffed up in vibrant Aztec patterns, these three amigos look to hone a new genre called "blanket-rock." Each show tries to bring a sort of wild comfort to the stage, reminding their audience to relish in life's simple, audio pleasures.



Starlight Orchestra

The Starlight Orchestra keeps the tradition of Ballroom Dance alive, interpreting the most recognizable favorites which include the Tango, the Vienna Waltz, the Cha-Cha, Rumba, Meringue, Samba, Salsa, Swing, Jump, the Jitterbug and the Polka. The Starlight Orchestra was created in 1988 under the direction of

Anthony Terpstra. Anthony's motivation in forming this band was to entertain audiences with the dance music that he has always liked. This ethic proved to be the defining element in the Orchestra's popularity, pleasing varied audiences at Concert Halls, Ballrooms and Corporate Events alike. Both Ballroom Amateurs and Professionals have danced to the rocking rhythms of *"The Best in the City"*.

Now in its 22nd year, this authentic dance orchestra has left its mark in the entertainment industry, creating a legacy of memorable engagements and a long list of returning fans.



Riddim & Jazz Crew

The Riddim & Jazz crew's passion is to combine the best of both the Caribbean and Jazz world; the favourable outcome is the hot energy of Caribbean music and the sweet, smoothness of Jazz. This band's dynamic sound will have its listeners wanting to hear more. Even though the Riddim & Jazz crew's main interest is Caribbean/Jazz, this exciting and diverse band also play Jazz, Reggae, Calypso and R&B. This 6 - 7 piece band is versatile, their sound enriched with fullness. This exciting band performs for all occasions, they can perform as a 7 piece band or as a quartet. The Riddim & Jazz crew performs at: Weddings/receptions, parties, clubs/restaurants, community/social/Co-corporation events, and major venues.



Sol De Cuba

Salsa dancing, traditional Cuban music, a group of passionate band members, and you've described Sol de Cuba in a nut-shell! Get ready for a cultural extravaganza that will make you feel as though you are dancing under the hot, Cuban sun with your friends while embracing the wonderful scenery that Cuba has to offer. The band consists of an experienced, captivating band that includes Pablo Terry, Rufino Maceiro, Pancho Galván, Julian Cordero, and Ersidio Tamayo.



Caitlin Claessens

Caitlin Claessens is an experienced musician and vocalist, performing with her guitar throughout the Western Hemisphere. With many years of live performance experience under her belt – both with bands and solo – Caitlin can command an audience just about anywhere. She has played on Norwegian Cruise Lines and various locations all throughout Canada, but her favourite venue is the New York City subway platform. Her vocals have been featured in various media, including Super Bowl commercials. She can be seen performing on the popular YouTube channel Super Simple Songs to over 6 million subscribers. Armed with a diverse repertoire of original songs and covers, Caitlin's engaging sets are not to be missed!



Grenville Pinto

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Grenville (a.k.a. 'G') has been playing the violin since the age of seven. His musical abilities have been nurtured from a young age with continuous recitals and performances that have resulted in his love for the stage and entertaining others. Now residing in Toronto, Grenville performs internationally at special events and concerts. With a wide repertoire of music, bubbling personality, and love for entertaining others, Grenville Pinto is someone you don't want to miss! Although he is classically-trained, his collection has expanded to include: Popular music, Rhythm & blues, Opera, Contemporary, easy listening, Hip hop, Ethnic music and Rock.



Liron Manahem

Liron is a Singer/Songwriter and Producer from Toronto, Ontario. Her sound is a mix of Pop, R'n'B, Dance-pop and Soul, with her main influences being Christina Aguilera, Mariah Carey, Sia and Rihanna. Liron has written and recorded songs for Shawn Mendes, Ana Golja, Capture De Band among others. Liron's First Single "I Love The Feeling" ft Alex Maciel, which was released on August 30th 2016, now has almost 50,000 views on YouTube and was trending at the 3rd spot worldwide on twitter merely an hour after its initial release. She has performed at Venues such as the Danforth Music Hall, The Opera House, and on the Yonge and Dundas Square Stage.



Shiamak

Representing the biggest Bollywood Dance Academy in the world is the SHIAMAK Toronto Dance Team. SHIAMAK Toronto Dance team consists of some of the brightest and most promising talent in the GTA. Handpicked by Shiamak Davar himself, they have made their mark all over Ontario with power packed performances that explode with energy and keep the audience wanting more! The SHIAMAK Toronto dance team has performed at shows such as the IIFA Awards, Just for Laughs, Toronto International Film Festival, TOIFA awards, as well as performed alongside Shahrukh Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Ranveer Singh, Jermaine Jackson and more. They have had the honor to perform for the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, as well as former Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Stephen Harper. They have also been involved in various corporate shows for TREWO Health Mela, CIBC, Amway, GM Motors, Trillium Health Partners, Best Western and more.



Lori LaMarche

Lori Lamarche is an Aboriginal First Nations singer who enjoys performing music of all genres. From Folk to Opera, Classical to Classic Rock, Lori Lamarche does it all. She has attended multiple festivals in Canada and the US over the years.

She has performed at music festivals, talent shows, weddings, radio appearances, and much more! Lori even performed at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics as an Indigenous Artist! She has also sung the Canadian and American National Anthem at a Blue Jays game at the Rogers Centre, as well as Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts.



The Commoners

With blazing leads, soulful harmonies, unforgettable melodies, and driving powerful rhythms, the Commoners are anything but your typical Toronto rock quartet, and they are here to prove it. Drawing inspiration from the soft blues of artists like John Mayer and riff-rich classic rockers like Led Zeppelin and the Black Crowes, the Commoners distinguish themselves with tight instrumentation, mesmerizing energy, and undeniably infectious songwriting. Keep your eyes on the Commoners and experience one of the most exciting up-and-coming Rock bands for yourself at the Festival!



The Imbayakunas

The Imbayakunas are a group that highlight the wondrous sound of the Andes. Each musician is from Ecuador and shares a love of performing. Their music can be described as a World Music fusion between traditional Andean sounds and contemporary Latin rhythms. Through their work over the years, they have become the best known local presenters of Andean music in Canada. The group has been touring Canada for the past 20 years. Audiences have enjoyed their music in various provinces in Canada, as well as in Dubai. In 2014 and 2017, the group won the *Aboriginal People's Choice Award* in the category of "Best International Aboriginal Music Release".



Dr Draw

Dr. Draw's energetic and infectious performances are sure to put audiences on their feet in awe! He was the first violinist to transform Classical and Rock music into modern, eccentric house music. He has performed at several well-known events for brands like Chloé and Dom Pérignon, the Toronto Beaches Jazz Festival, and has even performed for royalty in Prague! Through his unique music style, Dr Draw successfully unites contrasting musical elements such as Folk, Classical violin, Jazz-rock, and Pop. Dr. Draw continues to bring cultures together by taking diverse music genres and merging them into brilliant, cohesive songs.

