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## **Summer Music Festivals: July**

**By Bryan Borzykowski**



June 28 to July 8

### **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal**

Montréal

Long gone are the Montreal International Jazz Festival's growing pains. After years of fine tuning, the world's biggest jazz fest - now 28 - has learned that an eclectic mix of jazz, rock and folk will bring the crowd out in droves. Like every year, hundreds of thousands of people will descend upon Montreal to join 2,500 acts in 11 days of musical revelry.

Legendary folkie Bob Dylan is the biggest name on the bill, but countless others, such as Keith Jarrett, Harry Connick Jr., Wynton Marsalis and European world music superstar Manu Chau, will make this birthday hard to beat.

July 1 to July 8

### **The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo**

Halifax

Forget V-Fest. If you want to watch a bevy of brilliant musicians from around the globe, head to Halifax for The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo. This eight day event fuses military and civilian worlds together in one of the biggest marching band festivals around.

Bands from as far away as Norway and Belgium will perform for more than 60,000 people, while other events such as dance, gymnastics and military displays round out the week. While that's all good, it's the event's last day that draws the biggest crowd. Called Pipefest Nova Scotia, 1,000 drummers and pipers will strap on their gear July 8th and march through downtown Halifax to raise money for charity.



July 4 to July 15

## **Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest**

Ottawa

There are blues festivals and then there's the Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest.

At just 11 years of age, this event is one of the fastest growing summer shindigs in the country. Last year 250,000 music fans packed Canada's capital to hear some of the world's best performers and there's no reason 2007 should be any different.

While organizers have stacked this year's lineup with greats like Van Morrison, George Clinton, Femi Kuti and Steve Miller, there's something for everyone - even rock 'n' roll lovers - as The White Stripes, INXS, Final Fantasy and The Joel Plaskett Emergency all make welcomed appearances.



July 5 to July 8

## **Winnipeg Folk Festival**

Winnipeg

Who says there's nothing to do in Winnipeg? For one weekend, at least, thousands of 'Peggers join the mosquitoes at the sprawling Birds Hill Park to camp out and listen to their favourite folkies.

With a \$3 million operating budget, the Winnipeg Folk Festival is able to attract top talent, such as Bela Fleck, Michael Franti and Randy Newman. But it's the smaller names that really make this one of the country's best folk fests. Broken Social Scene's Jason Collett, ex-Wyrd Sister Lindsay Jane, and the Argentinean-born, B.C.-raised artist India Saravanja are worth the ticket price alone.



July 6 to July 8

## **Vancouver Island Musicfest**

Courtney, B.C.

There's more to Vancouver Island than Victoria. Don't believe us? Just ask the Arcade Fire's Sarah Neufeld. Courtney, B.C. - located three hours north of Victoria - might be where Neufeld calls home, but she's not the only musical entity to lay claim to this small island town. In its 12th year, the Vancouver Island MusicFest has a stellar reputation for shipping in high level acts to entertain the locals.

Past performers include Steve Earle, John Hammond and K'Naan, while this year sees celebrated songwriter Don McLean and Canadian reggae-pop stars Bedouin Soundclash headlining the three day event.



July 6 to July 8

## **PEI Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival**

Souris, PEI

In case you didn't know, bluegrass isn't limited to your 'Brother Where Art Thou' soundtrack. So why not learn a little more about this banjo picking genre at the PEI Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival? Taking place in Souris - a tiny town on the far east of the island - this fast fingered fest promises to be one of the most rollicking jamborees of the summer.

Lonesome Will Mullins, The Bluegrass Brothers, and New River Line are making the trek north from the States, while Nudie & The Turks prove fishing isn't the only thing East Coasters are good at.



July 13 to July 15

## **Montreal International Reggae Festival**

Montreal

Montreal is home to a lot of things - bagels, Mont Royal, indie rock - but one thing this eclectic city doesn't conjure up is reggae. Fortunately, one festival is trying to change that.

The Montreal International Reggae Festival is a newbie on the Canadian scene - it was created in 2004 and initially featured dancehall superstars Buju Banton and Yellowman - but that doesn't mean it's desperate to sell tickets.

More than 24,000 people are expected to watch the likes of Black Uhuru, the first reggae band to win a Grammy, the legendary Third World, and Bob Marley's progeny, Ky-Mani, light up Montreal's night life.



July 20 to July 22

## **World Electronic Music Festival**

Welland, ON

It's been years since raves were the go-to events for a wild weekend, but that doesn't mean electronic music is any less popular. Proving it is the World Electronic Music Festival, which brings ex-ravers and new revelers together for three days of booming beats and non-stop dancing.

The 13th installment sees some of the best DJs, MCs and electronica acts pound out the sounds on four stages. This year's highlights include dance duo MSTRKRFT, The Beastie Boys' Mix Master Mike and Washington DJ Donald Glaude. The weekend-long get-down will go down at the Niagara Regional Exhibition.



July 20 to August 12

## **Festival of the Sound**

Parry Sound, Ont.

If you can predict the quality of an event by its website, then the Festival of The Sound should be a doozy. Like its cyberspace property, Canada's premier chamber music festival is organized and easy to understand despite a genre that most Canucks know nothing about.

This 23-day bash is one of the longest summer events, but also one of the most fascinating, with some of the country's best chamber musicians enlisted to play. The festival's 28th season sees diverse acts like the Elmer Iseler Singers - a 20-piece vocal ensemble - and Toronto-born Opera singer Mary Lou Fallis hit the stage.



July 27 to July 29

## **Hillside Festival**

Guelph, Ont.

Want to know where a hipster goes to get away for the summer? Try the Hillside Festival, one of indie rock's most coveted music bashes. Every year since 1984, thousands of Ontarians flock to Guelph to catch some of Canada's best young bands. Past acts have included Arcade Fire, By Divine Right and k-os - and though the \$95 ticket price might seem steep for some poor students, consider what you're getting. Apostle of Hustle, Emily Haines, Ron Sexsmith, Mother Mother and Ani DiFranco are all showing up, while anarchist one-hit wonder Chumbawumba is scheduled to play an acoustic set. You can't put a price on that.

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## Summer Music Festivals: August

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July 20 to August 12

### Festival of the Sound

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August 2 to August 5

### Big Valley Jamboree

Camrose, AB

Country music might call Tennessee home, but for three days in August, Camrose, Alberta is the Nashville of the north.

This quiet town an hour south of Edmonton boasts Canada's biggest country music fest, with close to 90,000 rabid fans getting their Americana grooves on. Located on a 400-

acre field, this monster event has snagged the premier performer in new country today, ?American Idol' winner Carrie Underwood. She joins a who's who of superstars including George Canyon, Sara Evans and Rhett Atkins.

If that's not enough to make your heart stop, check out the healthy helping of Alberta-bred beef at the endless concession stands.



August 3 to August 5

## **Evolve**

Antigonish, N.S

Want to go green but can't afford a hybrid? Then the Evolve festival's for you. Promoting itself as the "greenest festival in Canada" this three day bash uses bio-diesel, solar and wind power to make this one of the country's most electric events.

Basking in the planet-friendly vibes this year will be none other than the jazz/reggae/electro combo Brazilian Girls. They'll be joined by experimental indie rockers Do May Say Think, Van-City buzz band Mother Mother and Canadian breakbeat master The Phat Conductor, plus 36 other acts.



August 5 to August 19

## **Festival Vancouver**

Vancouver

Rock folk and jazz aren't the only genres to get their own festivals, classical music can lay claim to one too. For two weeks in August orchestras, choirs, singers and musicians will flock to Vancouver's churches and theatres to give music aficionados and newbies a taste of everything classical.

This eclectic fest features everything from the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra to Finland's Philomela, a 25 member, all-female vocal choir. And if you're feeling blue because you've missed some of the 50 acts? Don't worry, headliner Bobby McFerrin will get you happy again.



August 9 to August 12

## **Shambhala Music Festival**

Salmo B.C.

Partying on a B.C. beach is great, but add a forest and a few mountains and you've got yourself a trip to paradise.

Salmo B.C.'s breathtaking scenery is a big reason why the Shambhala Music Festival has been growing by the thousands since its launch in 1998. Now in its ninth year, more than 10,000 revelers head to the Kootenay Mountain Range each August to be one with nature and lose themselves in an excessive amount of DJs, MCs and bands. This year's incarnation sees burgeoning electronica act Bassnectar headline, while a plethora of native British Columbians, including Meow Mix and Jitterbug, turn up the homegrown vibes.



August 10 to August 11

## **Wolfe Island Musicfest**

Wolfe Island

Kingston is more than just a college town, it's also the birthplace of the Tragically Hip, Bedouin Soundclash and a bevy of other seminal Canuck acts.

So it's fitting that one of indie rock's most beloved music festivals occurs 20 minutes from the city's core, on the nearby Wolfe Island. For two days, some of Canada's best independent musicians will peddle their wares and play for the masses. Hopping the ferry

ride to the grounds is none other than Sarah Harmer, Joel Plaskett, Pete Elkas, By Divine Right and a slew of other must-see musicians.

August 10 to August 18

## **Halifax International Busker Festival**

Halifax

Buskers might want your change, but they're no beggars. In fact, those dudes playing Van Morrison covers in the subway station? Many of them are brilliant musicians. They're so good that 21 years ago some entrepreneurial Halagionians launched the Halifax International Busker Festival, an eight day street performance extravaganza. Don't expect to find out who's playing - their website doesn't list any acts - but you wouldn't recognize the names anyway. Anticipate some of the world's best musicians, fire breathers, jugglers and performers from every street act imaginable to give audiences a new appreciation for their local longhair.

Whatever you do, don't forget your pocket change.



August 16 to August 19

## **Havelock Country Jamboree**

Havelock, Ont.

Just because most Ontarians prefer suits to cowboy hats doesn't mean they can't appreciate a good country music festival.

Havelock, Ont, located two hours east of Toronto, is home to one of the county's most exciting line-dance friendly fests, the Havelock Country Jamboree. It's a safe bet to assume that most of Canada has never heard of this tiny town, so it's all the more shocking when you hear who's on the bill. LeAnne Rimes, Jo Dee Messina, Terri Clark, Lee Ann Womack, and Paul Brandt are all slated to perform along with dozens of other big-name acts.