

MNLW 2025 DELEGATE BIOS



Adam Meyer

Volunteer

Town of New Glasgow/Glasgow Square
New Glasgow, NS

<https://www.glasgowsquare.com>

Lead volunteer for Glasgow Square, take care of ensuring all events go smoothly and that the other volunteers have everything they need.



Amy Russell

Program Committee
Lunenburg Folk Harbour Society
Lunenburg, NS

<https://www.folkharbour.com>

Amy Russell is the newest member of the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Society's Program Committee (a committee of 4 individuals). Amy has a lifelong connection to various music communities in Western and Atlantic Canada, she has grown up playing instruments across folk, Celtic, classical, and jazz genres, developing a deep appreciation for diverse musical styles. Immersed in the music scene

through performances, volunteering, and attending festivals and events, Amy is excited to bring her unique experiences and dedication to help foster the artistic direction of the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Society. The Society presents an annual

festival in early August each year as well as spring, summer, and fall concert series. In August of 2026 the Society will be presenting its 41st Festival. Further, the Society owns and operates the Lunenburg Opera House, a century old theatre in the center of the UNESCO world heritage town of Lunenburg.



Andrea Taylor

Team Coordinator
Purple City Music Festival
Edmonton, AB

www.purplecityfest.com

Co-founder of Purple City and previous Volunteer Coordinator for Up + Dt. Involved with other DIY projects throughout the last 15 years centered around community building and supporting the music scene.



Andrew Jackson

Artistic Director
Halifax Jazz Festival
Halifax, NS

halifaxjazzfestival.ca

Since 2017 Andrew has been the musical curator for the TD Halifax Jazz Festival, which has won multiple "Event of The Year" Awards" under his tenure, and is one of the city's signature events, bringing in a vast array of acclaimed international talent.

He is a Juno award winning trombonist and his versatility and unique sound have made him one of Eastern Canada's first-call players. Andrew is a multiple time Music Nova Scotia award winner, including accolades such as "Musician of the Year" and "Jazz Recording of The Year" amongst others. Lastly, since 2015 he has been the host of the Outer Edge on CKDU 88.1FM



Asha Dillion

Partner | SVP Music Creative & Production

The Wilders

Toronto, ON

thewilders.tv

Asha Dillion is an audio producer and music supervisor who calls Toronto, Canada her home. Her extensive background in music and audio production for long-format content has allowed her to further develop her craft from a creative, technical and production standpoint while remaining in service to each project's story. Asha's portfolio includes everything from in-studio audio work to collaborating directly with sound designers,

composers, musicians, and production teams to create sonic experiences that leave a lasting impact on audiences worldwide.

RECENT MUSIC SUPERVISION & MUSIC PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS:

An Optimist's Guide to the Planet (Season 1-Current) - Cream Productions - Bloomberg/Crave | Meadowlarks (2025) - January Films/Experimental Forest Films | Revival (2025) - SyFy | The Z-Suite (2025) - Tubi | Canada's Drag Race (Season 1-Current) - Saloon Media/World of Wonder/Crave | Slaycation (Season 1-Current) - World of Wonder/Blue Ant Media - Crave | Vikings: Valhalla (Season 2) - Netflix | Canada's Drag Race Vs The World (Season 1- Current) - World of Wonder/Crave | Don't Even (2024) - Pier21 Films - Crave/APTN | Stormy (2024) - Imagine Entertainment - Peacock | Late Bloomer (Season 1-Current) - Pier21 Films - Crave | The Game Show Show (2023) - Cream Productions - ABC | My Little Pony: Make Your Mark (2023) - Hasbro - Netflix | My Little Pony: Tell Your Tale (Season 1-Current) - Hasbro - Netflix



Bryan Power

Co-Founder
Victory Pool
St. John's, NL

www.victorypool.ca

Bryan Power is the co-founder of Victory Pool, an independent record label and management company based in Toronto. In a past life he served as the Artistic Director of Lawnya Vawnya and the Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival. In the current life, he is living in St John's with his family and potentially a cat. We'll see

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as the Artistic Director of Lawnya Vawnya and the Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival.



Carter Snow

Programmer
Carter Music | The Rec Room | Jibfest
St. John's, NL

[Carter Music](#) | [The Rec Room](#) | [Jibfest](#)

Carter Snow is a dynamic music and show producer with a diverse background across live event production, artist development, and entertainment management. He is the Co-Owner of The Jibfest Weekender and serves as a Booking Agent for The Rec Room, Avalon, and Oíche Nightclub. A CARAS Academy Delegate and JUNO Technical/Craft Juror, Carter brings industry expertise and

creative vision to every project. With extensive experience in DJ backline, festival production, and event design, Carter continues to shape innovative live experiences across Canada's music and nightlife scenes.



Chris Ball

Programming Manager
Arts & Culture Centres NL
St. John's, NL

<https://artsandculturecentre.com/>

Chris Ball's work with the Astor Theatre shows what can be accomplished through a belief in contributing to the arts and a commitment to hard work. The theatre was on the verge of closing when Chris became the general manager. After working with many volunteers in the community to bring it back to life, today, the Astor Theatre is one of the busiest venues in the province and an important part of the touring circuit of Nova Scotia. After 20 years managing the Astor, Chris decided to move on and became the Operational and Technical Manager of the Labrador West Arts and Culture Centre where he froze for 6 years while welcoming artists to the Big Land. For the past 5 years he has been in the position as Programming Manager for the Arts and Culture Centres of NL in St. John's where he oversees programming for all 6 ACC's across the province.

During his time at the Astor, Chris was an active volunteer as a board member of the Atlantic Presenters Association, In 2008, Chris was honoured with the NS Democracy 250 Award for contribution to cultural life in his community and the APA Professional Presenters Award in 2007. From 2011-2014, Chris sat on the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council, an advisory board to the Minister Of Communities, Culture, and Heritage in NS and Chaired the Program Review Committee for the Council.



Craig Course

Booking Agent
CCM Live
Dumfries, Scotland

<http://ccmlive.co.uk/>

Craig is the founder and director of CCM Live, one of Scotland's leading folk-based booking agencies. As well as looking after many well-known acts from

Scotland, managing their live careers across multiple territories worldwide - including North America, Europe and Australasia - CCM Live also represent international artists touring into the UK and Europe.

Craig is also festival producer of the award-winning Orkney Folk Festival (BBC Scots Trad Must Awards' Event of the Year 2023, leading on artistic direction and programming. Additionally, he is a director of Showcase Scotland Expo, and on the steering group of Showcase Scotland at Celtic Connections - Scotland's largest international music conference.



Danica Bansie

Music Supervisor
Pirate Sound

Toronto, ON

piratesound.com

Danica is a music supervisor at PIRATE SOUND, a full-service audio house based in Toronto. With over a decade of music industry experience, Danica is a former music photographer, writer, and marketer. With a

foundation in media & communications, English literature, and film, Danica brings her love of culture and storytelling to all of the projects she works on; whether that be.



Deborah Altken

Artist Booking Manager
Ness Creek Music Festival
Nokomis, SK

Nesscreekmusicfestival.com

Deborah has worked with the Ness Creek Music Festival since 2005 - as a volunteer, board member, office manager, and for the past 10 years my role has been formalized as the Artist Booking Manager. In this role I manage a small team of volunteers and together we book the Main Stage and After Hours Stage entertainment at the festival and our year round events. I'm a big supporter of local artists and feel very

fortunate to experience local artists from across the country. Hope to see you in Saskatchewan soon.



Don Maher

Programmer

The Black Sheep on George

St. John's, NL

www.theblacksheep.ca

Don Maher is the owner, manager and booking agent for The Black Sheep live music venue located on George Street in St. John's, NL (since 2014). Over the years the venue has presented some great local, national and international acts ranging from rock, blues, jazz, and country music. Some notables include

Ron Hynes, Denis Parker, Mick Davis, Sherry Ryan, Jody Richardson, The Kubasoncis, Fortunate Ones, Fairgale, Matt Mays, Jenny Gear & Sandy Morris, Rachel Cousins, Dave Monk from Tokyo Police Club, Joel Plaskett and the list goes on.



Dustin Parsons

Media Producer, Promoter & Industry Connector

Steady Entertainment Inc

Pasadena, NL

www.tickettide.ca

Dustin Parsons is a television host, producer, and live event promoter based in CornerBrook, Newfoundland. As host of West Talk on Rogers TV, he has become a recognizable voice championing East Coast musicians, venues, and cultural stories. The series—consistently ranked among the top community programs in Canada—features in-depth interviews with

emerging and established artists, connecting local audiences with the wider Atlantic music scene.

Beyond television, Dustin is the founder of Steady Entertainment Inc. and TicketTide, platforms that have helped deliver some of Western Newfoundland's most

successful concerts and festivals. He has collaborated with national and regional acts, produced promotional campaigns, and supported countless community initiatives. At the 2025 ECMAs, Dustin co-hosted the Live Awards Gala on NTV and Rogers TV and hosted the TD Connected Songwriters' Circle, highlighting his ongoing commitment to elevating East Coast talent. His work bridges media, music, and live production—creating opportunities for artists while growing Newfoundland's entertainment ecosystem.

Dustin continues to build partnerships across media, tourism, and event industries, always focused on amplifying Atlantic Canadian voices to a broader stage.



Dylan Ross

Music Coordinator

Wracket Music

Toronto, ON

www.wracketmusic.com

Dylan Ross, Music Coordinator at Wracket Music Supervision, has been working in the Music Supervision industry for three years now. Most recently having done work on such productions as FBI True, Special Ops True, and PD True for Paramount+. The last of which has been nominated for best factual series at the 2025 Canadian Screen Awards.

Graduate of the prestigious Music Industry Arts and Audio Post Production programs at Fanshawe College, in London Ontario. Learning from Canadian legends such as Grammy Nominated “The Cranberries” producer, Dan Brodbeck.

Currently working with Paramount+ on WWE superstar Ron Goldberg's Carlectables - a fixer up old school muscle car show. As well as Ranchland - a multimillion dollar Ranch listings show.

Other notable work includes music clearance on the highly acclaimed film, Village Keeper (Arizona Film Festival Grand Prize, Minnesota Film Festival Best Narrative Feature) and the IMAX film Ocean Paradise featuring music by Coldplay and Jack Johnson.



Elsa Simms

Board member
Lawnya Vawnya
St. John's, NL

www.lawnyavawnya.com

Elsa Simms is a musician and museum professional from St. John's. She is currently pursuing her PhD in community archaeology at MUNL and has most notably curated exhibits such as Punk Rock Pearl for Admiralty House

Communications Museum. Elsa started playing in punk bands as a teenager and still plays in several local bands today. She is passionate about making heritage, archaeology, history, and punk accessible through inclusive programming and community engagement.



Fabienne Christophle

Coordinator
Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et
du Labrador
Saint-Jean, Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador

<https://www.fftntl.ca>

Mis sur pied par la communauté francophone et acadienne de la province, le Réseau Culturel Francophone de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador favorise l'épanouissement de sa vie artistique et culturelle et participe à sa construction identitaire. À cet effet, il soutient la formation, le développement, la promotion des artistes et des artisans et la

circulation de leurs œuvres. Il stimule le développement des capacités des intervenants culturels. Il encourage la communauté à prendre fièrement sa place dans son milieu.

Created by the province's Francophone and Acadian community, the Réseau Culturel Francophone de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador (RCFTNL) promotes the development of

its artistic and cultural life and contributes to its identity building. To this end, it supports the training, development, promotion of artists and craftsmen and the circulation of their works. It stimulates the development of the capacities of cultural workers. It encourages the community members to proudly take their place in their environment.



Gwenaël Le Priol

le vice-président de l'association | VP
L'association EKLECTIK/Dunefest
Saint Pierre et Miquelon, FRANCE
dunefest.fr

Gwenaël Le Priol est le vice-président de l'association EKLECTIK, qui propose chaque année un festival sur la plage de Langlade aux Îles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, appelé le Dunefest. L'année 2024 marquera la 11^e édition de ce festival qui est devenu un incontournable de la vie culturelle et musicale de l'archipel. Ils accueillent environ 3 000 festivaliers durant le week-end. Gwenaël s'occupe principalement de la programmation des groupes qui évoluent sur scène, et est aussi responsable de divers éléments de la logistique et l'installation du festival. Les genres musicaux du Dunefest sont très variés et éclectiques; le festival est ouvert à tout style de musique (pop-rock, hard-rock, rap, reggae, country, chansonnier, dub techno, musique irlandaise, etc). Environ 80 musiciens, principalement locaux mais aussi du Canada et de la France métropolitaine, vont se succéder sur la scène tout au long de ce week-end.

Gwenaël Le Priol is the vice-president of the EKLECTIK association which every year produces a festival on Langlade beach in the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Islands called Dunefest. 2024 will mark the 11th edition of this festival which has become an essential part of the cultural and musical life of the archipelago. They welcome around 3,000 festival-goers during the weekend. Gwenaël mainly takes care of the programming and is also responsible for various elements of logistics for the festival. The musical genres at Dunefest are varied and eclectic; the festival is open to all styles of music (pop-rock, hard-rock, rap, reggae, country, singer-songwriter, dub techno, Irish music, etc). Around 80 musicians, mainly local but also from Canada and mainland France, will take the stage throughout this weekend.



Heidi Baird

Artistic Director
Larlee Creek Hullabaloo
Kilburn, NB

www.larleecreekmusic.ca

Heidi Baird is the founder and Artistic Director of the Larlee Creek Hullabaloo, a five-day, multi-genre music festival held annually in Perth-Andover, New Brunswick. Since its inception in 2008, the festival has grown into one of Atlantic Canada's most cherished musical events, known for its welcoming atmosphere, strong community spirit, and unwavering commitment to highlighting local and East Coast talent. Heidi continues to champion the region's vibrant music scene with heart and vision.



Jeff Ojeda

Owner | Manager | Agency
Phase Entertainment Group
Vancouver, BC

<https://phaseentgroup.com/>

Jeff Ojeda is a trailblazing music entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in the entertainment industry. Since founding Phase Management in 2017 (now Phase Entertainment Group), Ojeda

has played a pivotal role in achieving seven Top 40 Billboard charting hits in Canada. His expertise spans from working as a guitar technician on tour to spearheading creative projects for industry giants like: Nickelback, Keshia Chanté, Roger Taylor (QUEEN), Florida Georgia Line, Morgan Wallen, Jess Moskaluke and many more.

Ojeda's accolades include the inaugural Music Managers Forum of Canada's Trailblazer Award in 2023 along with numerous nominations in 2025 including: Canadian Country Music Awards "Creative Team or Designer of the Year", Western Canadian Music Awards "Impact In Music Marketing", Country Music Alberta Awards "Visual Creatives of the Year", and BC Country Music Awards "Business Professional of the Year" and "Creative Professional or Team of the Year".

Phase Entertainment Group represents the next evolution of artist representation, offering a comprehensive suite of services designed to empower artists. With a proven track record of award-winning campaigns, chart-topping hits, and high-profile collaborations, Phase Entertainment Group is redefining what it means to be a partner in the music industry.



Justin Nordell

Operations Director
Youth Performance Institute / Person First

Philadelphia, USA

<http://teampyi.com>

Justin Nordell began his career as a Social Studies and English curriculum developer before segueing into entertainment as an ADR Director and Scriptwriter for cartoons under a

subsidiary of Sony. Becoming a director of the renowned Philadelphia Film Festival, Justin then spent nearly a decade thereafter running a music school, music venue, and music festival in Philadelphia to international acclaim. Justin is thrilled to be returning to his education roots at the Youth Performance Institute.



Kai Bryan

Logistics Manager

Atlantic Presenters Association
St. John's, NL

atlanticpresenters.ca

Kai Bryan is the Logistics Manager and Membership Coordinator with the Atlantic Presenters Association (APA), a membership based organization that supports presenters throughout the Atlantic region. Kai is responsible for the planning and on-the-ground logistics of events including the annual showcasing

conference Contact East. They are the go-to person for APA members, providing information and assistance to presenters in accessing APA services and benefits.

As a performing artist, Kai has a personal understanding of what it takes to support artists and presenters alike, and cares about making live events as enjoyable and safe as possible for everyone involved.



Kelly Sceviour

Special Events Coordinator
Town of Gander
Gander, NL

www.gandercanada.com

Kelly Sceviour has spent over 26 years in the events industry as the Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Gander. Throughout her career, she has curated entertainment for a wide range of events, including Gander's Annual Festival of Flight, the 2024 NL Winter Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies, 9/11 Commemoration Events, and most recently Melodies and Morsels - a concept that was sparked during MusicNL Celebration Week 2024. Kelly takes great pride in programming Gander's event lineups alongside collaborator Vanessa Elliott. She is passionate

about showcasing the incredible musical talent of Newfoundland and Labrador and creating memorable experiences for her community.



Kerri Stephens

PANELIST*

Artist Manager
Lost Cat Artists
Winnipeg, MB

www.lostcatartists.com

Kerri Stephens has worked in the Canadian music industry for over 17 years, with experience in programming, artist development, event planning, and community outreach. She spent nearly a decade at

Winnipeg's West End Cultural Centre, where she took on multiple roles, including Artistic Director/Associate and Marketing Coordinator. In 2020, she founded Lost Cat

Artists, an artist management company currently working with 2025 Juno nominee The Secret Beach, UK band Supalung, 2025 WCMA winner Leaf Rapids, Petunia & The Vipers, JP Hoe, and Hendrika. Kerri also leads the Manitoba chapter of Women in Music Canada, where—under the leadership of Robyn Stewart—she helps develop programs and initiatives that support equity and access in the music sector. In 2024/2025, she co-presented a live sound training program and co-executive produced (with Robyn Stewart) the HER (204) recording project for Winnipeg 150, which featured 11 local women and gender-diverse artists covering 150 years of songs written by Manitobans. Kerri spent three years as part of the Artistic team at the Winnipeg Folk Festival, where her role included overseeing the Young Performers Program and the Minstrel program. A former touring artist herself, she continues to support musicians through mentorship, grant writing, and, most recently international initiative development with Enki Music (UK).



Rudofsky, Krysta

Managing Director & Marketing Director
Majestic Theatre
St. John's, NL

<https://majestictheatrehill.com>

Krysta is the Managing Director at The Majestic Theatre. A former talk show host, reporter and producer, Krysta began her own marketing and consulting company working with small businesses, musicians, theatre companies and artists. She is passionate about supporting and promoting the arts, believing that art and culture truly enriches the lives of the people in our community. With her team at The Majestic Theatre, they are committed to hiring and promoting

musicians, and producing shows that feature their incredible talent.



Kyle Merkley

Music Supervisor and Music Editor

Songchopper | Hudson & Rex

Toronto, ON

www.songchopper.com

As a Music Supervisor and Music Editor for over a decade, Kyle Merkley's credits include The Lake (AMAZON), The Office Movers (CRAVE), Ruby & The Well (BYU/Family), Murdoch Mysteries (CBC), Hudson & Rex (CityTV) and more. Kyle is also a musician having written and performed with top-24 Canadian Idol contestants, produces music under pseudonyms, and has appeared on Entertainment Tonight: Canada

and MuchMusic's disBAND.



Laura-Beth Power

Event and Programming Coordinator

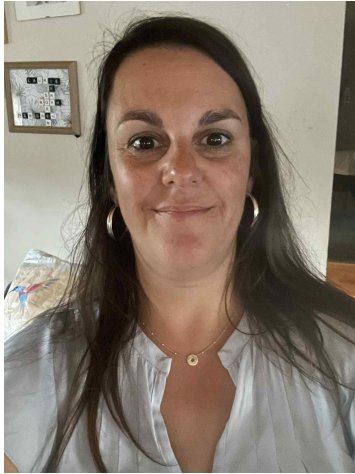
The Majestic Theatre and Theatre Hill Bar + Café

St. John's, NL

www.majestictheatrehill.com

The Majestic Theatre is located in the heart of historic downtown St. John's, NL. Our landmark marquee stands proudly at the

vibrant intersection of Duckworth Street and Queen's Road, guiding you to an unforgettable experience. The Majestic Theatre is not just a venue, it is a beloved community arts space.



Laruie De Arburn

Radio

L'association EKLECTIK/ Dunefest

Saint Pierre et Miquelon, FRANCE

dunefest.fr

Gwenaël Le Priol est le vice-président de l'association EKLECTIK, qui propose chaque année un festival sur la plage de Langlade aux Îles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, appelé le Dunefest. L'année 2024 marquera la 11^e édition de ce festival qui est devenu un incontournable de la vie culturelle et musicale de l'archipel. Ils accueillent environ 3 000 festivaliers durant le week-end. Gwenaël s'occupe principalement de la programmation des groupes qui évoluent sur scène, et est aussi responsable de divers éléments de la logistique et l'installation du festival. Les genres musicaux du Dunefest sont très variés et éclectiques; le festival est ouvert à tout style de musique (pop-rock, hard-rock, rap, reggae, country, chansonnier, dub techno, musique irlandaise, etc). Environ 80 musiciens, principalement locaux mais aussi du Canada et de la France métropolitaine, vont se succéder sur la scène tout au long de ce week-end.

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Leonard Podolak

Co-Artistic Director
Home Routes | Chemin ChezNous
Winnipeg, ON
www.homeroutes.ca

Leonard Podolak is a Canadian banjo player, composer, and organizer whose career spans performance, recording, and community-based music presentation. While widely recognized as the founder of the Juno- and Grammy-nominated band The Duhks, Leonard's deep commitment to supporting artists and audiences is equally

reflected in his work with Home Routes/Chemin Chez Nous, Canada's national network of house concerts and intimate touring circuits.

Through Home Routes, Leonard, along with his business partner, Co-Artistic/Executive Director, Cathy Crawford have helped continue, and build on a model that connects artists with communities in a sustainable, artist-centered way. He oversees the curation and scheduling of tours, recruiting new Communities and working with a national network of volunteer hosts to bring high-quality live music to small towns and neighborhoods across Canada, many of which were lacking year round cultural dissemination of any kind . By ensuring that artists are paid immediately at the door and by supporting intimate, community-driven performances, Home Routes exemplifies a philosophy of uplifting both artists and audiences.

Leonard's work with Home Routes has helped hundreds of concerts reach thousands of Canadians, creating opportunities for artists to tour sustainably while audiences experience music in deeply personal, welcoming spaces. This vision combines professional presentation with grassroots engagement, reflecting both his musical expertise and his dedication to strengthening the national folk and roots music ecosystem.

Through performance, mentorship, and presenting, Leonard continues to champion a model of music-making that values creativity, community, and accessibility—ensuring that Canadian roots music thrives for generations to come.



Liana White

Executive Director
Canadian Federation of Musicians
Toronto, ON

<http://cfmusicians.org>

Liana White is the Executive Director of the Canadian National Office of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM/CFM), serving the interests of professional musicians and the labour movement for almost 30-years. Ms. White is involved in almost every aspect of the union's operations – from cross border visa assistance to live performance and recording advice, as well as negotiating agreements and mentoring musicians in all aspects of their career. In addition to her role at the union, Ms. White is a founding Board Member, and now Chair, of Women in Music Canada.



Maggy White

Marketing and Events Coordinator
Brent Mac Events- Best Kind BBQ
St. John's, NL

www.brentmacevents.com/

Maggy White is a Fourth Year Marketing Student, attending for Brent Mac Events. First experience with Event Promotion and Planning.



MarySue Twohy

Music Programmer
SiriusXM Coffee
Maryland, USA

www.siriusxm.com

Mary Sue Twohy is Program Director at SiriusXM, curating folk and classic rock channels including The Village and The Bridge. Starting as singer-songwriter and evolving into an award-winning broadcaster, she was inducted into the Folk Radio Hall of Fame in 2025.



Matt Horseman

Board of Directors
Sappyfest
Sackville, NB

matthorseman.com

Matt Horseman is a writer, photographer, and journalist. His work has been published in National Geographic, The Globe & Mail, Canadian Geographic, VICE, Musicworks Magazine, No Depression, The A.V. Club, The FADER, and other fine publications. He's shaped narratives and done photo and video work for artists such as Julie Doiron, Joel Plaskett, Mo Kenney, Nico Paulo, Boy

Golden, July Talk, Matt Mays, and Terra Lightfoot. He's been a Polaris Music Prize juror since 2016, and served on Sappyfest's board of directors for three years. He used to play in a band.



Mikaila Simmons

Music Supervisor

Roly Poly Music

St. John's, NL

[Roly Poly Music](#)

Mikaila Simmons is an independent music supervisor with over ten years of experience in the industry. She launched her own company called Roly Poly Music in 2024, offering music supervision and editing services in film, television and beyond. Some of her previous credits include Davey and Jonesie's Locker, Vikings, The Handmaid's Tale S1, Mary Kills People, Diggstown, The Grizzlies, and her upcoming projects include the Netflix series Untitled Newfoundland Project, the Diablo Cody-produced

indie film Forbidden Fruits, and the independent films A Safe Distance and Last Stop Video Rentals. She has overseen on-camera performances, custom song production, and sourced everything from 8th century Belarusian folk music to contemporary Inuit hip hop.



Morgan Simms

Program, Culture, and Events Manager

Town of New Glasgow/Glasgow Square Theatre

New Glasgow, NS

www.glasgowsquare.com

Morgan Simms is the Program, Culture, and Events Manager with the Town of New Glasgow, overseeing all municipal cultural programming as well as concerts and festivals at Glasgow Square Theatre. He was nominated for Emerging Industry Professional of the Year at the 2023 Music Nova Scotia Awards and is dedicated to supporting both emerging and established talent across the province.



Navel Sarr

President

St. John's African Roots Festival - SARFest

St. John's

<https://sarfest.ca/>

Naval Sarr is the President and the Founder of the only African music festival in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador called St. John's African Roots festival (SARFest).

SARFest celebrates African culture and music, featuring concerts, workshops,

storytelling, and food, aiming to build bridges between the African community and Newfoundlanders.



Pete Kelly

Music Director

Premier League Productions

Kent, UK

premierleague.com

As Music Director, Pete sits across all aspects of music at Premier League Productions, both creative and licensing. After almost a decade at UK sports channel BT Sport, he left the role of Head of Music there to join Premier

League Productions, supervising the music for the global coverage of Premier League football. In recent years, his work has been recognised by the UK music industry picking up awards such as Best Music Supervisor at the Music Week Awards to Best Use of Music at Promax, D&AD, Music & Sound, Royal Television Society & Telly Awards.



Quinton, Peter

CEO

Mighty Quinton | Churchill Park Festival
St. John's, NL

<https://mightyquinton.com> |

<https://churchillparkmusicfestival.com>

Pete Quinton is the Owner at Mighty Quinton Promotions based in St. John S, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mighty Quinton Concerts specializes in producing premium live events and festivals, showcasing world-class musical acts. With a history spanning three decades, they have organized successful festivals such as the Confederation Hill Music Fest and the

Churchill Park Music Festival. Their events feature renowned artists including Rod Stewart, Shania Twain, and Nickelback, ensuring memorable experiences for attendees. The company is committed not only to entertainment but also to meticulous event planning to create the best experiences possible.



Keto-LeBlanc, Pilvi

Executive Director

Writers at Woody Point
Norris Point, NL

www.writersatwoodypoint.com

Pilvi Keto-LeBlanc (FIN/CAN, she/her) is an arts administrator, artist, and curator dedicated to building community and fostering creative exchange through artistic collaboration and dialogue.

Originally from Finland, she led international arts initiatives in Lapland, co-founded the Young Arctic Artists platform, and contributed to the X-Border Art Biennial. Now based in Newfoundland and Labrador, Pilvi is the Executive Director of Writers at Woody Point, where she continues to champion storytelling, music, and cultural connection in a rural setting



Ray Gracewood

President
AREA 506
Quispamsis, NB
<http://area506.ca>

AREA 506 celebrates the best in local music, culture and goods. What started out in 2016 as a local festival has turned into a permanent East Coast experience on the Saint John waterfront featuring the AREA 506 Festival, AREA 506 Waterfront Concert Series and the award winning AREA 506 Waterfront Container Village. Hosting over 100 events each year, the Container Village has quickly become one of the most unique and inspiring outdoor venues

in Canada.



Ryan Rathjen

Executive Director / Booking Agent
Purple City Fest
Edmonton, AB
www.purplecityfest.com

Purple City's Executive Director, Ryan Rathjen has worked in the music industry for over 20 years as a musician, booking agent, talent buyer & venue manager. As the longest-sitting board member of Purple City & Up+Dt, Ryan has made significant impact on the non-profit. In 2020, he led the festival's rebranding, with a vision of collaboration within the community to inspire youth and showcase latest sounds in underground and

alternative music. Ushering Purple City through the pandemic, the festival re-surfaced with smashing success in 2021.

In his role at Purple City, Ryan coordinates all aspects of the non-profit and festival activities, from talent-buying, branding & design, to community partnerships, marketing and volunteer support. Outside of Purple City, Ryan is a long-time volunteer and host of CJSR 88.5 FM's award-winning radio-show, Phased Out that specializes in giving a platform to unheard-of and breaking artists from Canada & around the globe.



Sarah Card

Festival Producer
Bear Creek Folk Festival
Grande Prairie, AB
bearcreekkfolkfest.org

Sarah Card is the founder and producer of the Bear Creek Folk Festival, in Grande Prairie AB. The event runs mid August and features over 30 artists from around the world. Headliners have included kd lang, Sarah McLachlan, Blue Rodeo, Jewel, Steve Earle, Feist, and more. Founded in 2016, Sarah has led the charge, including coordinating over 800 volunteers annually, to create the largest tourism draw in the history of the

Grande Prairie region. With sellout crowds since 2023 the festival sees 7500+ people on site per day.



Steve MacIntyre

Artistic Director
Stan Rogers Folk Festival
Port Hawkesbury/Canso, NS
www.stanfest.com

Steve MacIntyre is a singer-songwriter from Cape Breton who became the Artistic Director of the Stan Rogers Folk Festival in 2023. The Stan Rogers Folk Festival enters its 30th year this July, and has become a major festival event in Eastern Nova Scotia since its inception in 1997. Presenting upwards of 50 artists

annually, it has helped launch the careers of countless east coast artists while presenting some of the finest songwriters from across the globe. Join us for our 30th anniversary July 20-26!



Tessa Balaz

Owner

Balaz Media \Knox Hall
Sudbury, ON

<https://www.knox.vip>

Tessa Balaz is a multi-disciplinary artist and cultural leader from Sudbury, Ontario, whose career spans music performance, songwriting, arts administration, and fundraising. With roots in classical training as a cellist in the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, she has built a distinctive voice as a singer, songwriter, and producer, blending soul, R&B, and classical influences with raw authenticity.

Tessa has collaborated with world-class production teams tied to artists such as Drake, The Weeknd, and

Daniel Caesar, while also carving out her own path as a solo artist. Her music—featured in projects like *Kim's Convenience* (Season 4)—has garnered nominations at the Northern Ontario Music & Film Awards and attention for its fearless exploration of identity, resilience, and self-acceptance.

Beyond her own artistry, Tessa has dedicated her career to strengthening Canada's cultural ecosystem. She has served as Executive Director of Northern Lights Festival Boréal and Jazz Sudbury, two of Northern Ontario's premier music festivals. At the SOCAN Foundation, she created and facilitated Equity X, a groundbreaking program for women-identifying and non-binary producers, as well as the Incubator for Creative Entrepreneurship, supporting artists in building sustainable careers. As a fundraising professional, Tessa has raised significant revenue for individual artists and cultural organizations through grants, sponsorship, and donor relations. She is frequently invited to share her expertise through workshops, panels, and mentorship with organizations such as SOCAN, Music Ontario, CIMA, and Women in Music Canada.

Her work is guided by a commitment to equity, inclusion, and creative empowerment. Whether on stage, in the studio, or leading cultural initiatives, Tessa Balaz continues to elevate voices, nurture emerging talent, and champion sustainable futures for artists across Canada.



Tim Hardy

Owner
Songlines
Dartmouth, NS

<https://soundofpop.com>

Tim Hardy is the co-owner of Sound of Pop, a multiple ECMA award-winning music publishing & master/sync representation company currently representing a 3000+ song catalogue world-wide in a one-stop capacity for sync representation and/or publishing.



Trinity Thibeault

Program Coordinator
Knox Hall
Sudbury, ON

<https://www.knox.vip/>

Trinity Thibeault is the Program Coordinator at Knox Hall, where she curates dynamic concerts, festivals, and community events. A passionate advocate for Northern Ontario's arts scene, she has booked acclaimed artists such as Donovan Woods, Whitehorse, and Serena Ryder while championing emerging local talent. Trinity founded Knoxfest, a

spring music festival celebrating northern-based artists, and continues to develop inclusive, vibrant spaces for artists and audiences to connect. Her work at Knox Hall reflects her dedication to fostering creativity, collaboration, and a thriving live music culture in the North.



Lund-Christensen, Tue

Festival Director
Roots & Jazz Copenhagen
Denmark, UK

<https://www.rootsjazz.dk>

Tue Lund-Christensen Hello I am a dedicated cultural entrepreneur and promoter based in Copenhagen, Denmark. A passionate art driven individual who has been in charge of Roots & Jazz Copenhagen for nearly 15 years. Last year my partner and I also opened a small farmvenue (70 cap) called Gården i Mørkøv Kirkeby. At the same time we organized a booking chain network with 6 other similar venues to create a basis for better tours for artists. I am a very curious person by nature and love to hear new music.



Úna Molloy

Irish Music Agent/Event Producer
Turning | Hibernacle
Leinster, Ireland

www.turningpirate.com | www.hibernacle.ie

Úna Molloy is the owner of Turning Pirate, a small, but dynamic agency in Ireland. She has helped develop the careers of Lisa Hannigan, Ye Vagabonds, Carsie Blanton, Josh Okeefe, Booka Brass and Wallis Bird and is a major advocate for celebrating the importance and accessibility of Ireland on the global music industry stage. Since 2006, Úna has booked tours for bands all over Ireland and also worked as a tour manager for Lisa Hannigan, James Vincent McMorrow, Natalie Merchant and Bell X1, Joe Henry, being responsible for navigating across every

continent.

In recent years, Úna co-founded the events company Hibernacle and has created events that focus on bringing musicians together and fostering magical moments both on and off the stage. Úna is also co-founder of Ireland's Live Venue Collective, a group of small to midsize independent venues that came together to lobby for funding to successfully create employment and keep venues alive during COVID lock downs.



Vanessa Elliott

Special Events Planner
Town of Gander
Gander, NL

<https://www.gandercanada.com>

Vanessa Elliott is a Special Events Planner with the Town of Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador, where she has been curating live entertainment and community celebrations since 2023. She is responsible for booking musical acts for all of the Town's major events, from weekly Concerts in the Park to the Festival of Flight, Gander's largest

annual celebration that draws thousands of attendees.

Vanessa is passionate about showcasing the incredible and diverse musical talent that Newfoundland and Labrador has to offer and takes pride in creating opportunities for artists to connect with new audiences as well as introducing audiences to new performers. A strong supporter of live music and community engagement, she enjoys discovering new performers and fostering relationships within the province's music scene.

Outside of her work, Vanessa is a devoted animal lover who brings warmth, creativity, and enthusiasm to everything she does.



Vincent Degiorgio

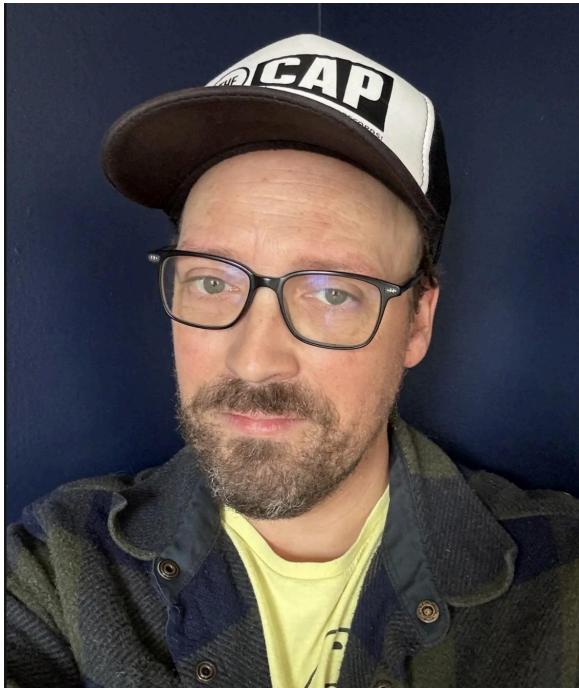
President
Cymba Music Publishing
Toronto, ON

www.cymbamusic.com

Vincent Degiorgio is the CEO of Cymba Music Publishing. His company, Cymba is one of the most pro-active, creative music publishing entities in Canada. It is home for writers and artists such as Logan Richard, Oleyada, Barbra Lica, Rachel Cousins, Mia Kelly and The Free Label and proudly represents Citadel House, Daniel Adams and Noah Malcolm, to name a few.

Cymba has been nominated 3x by the Guild Of Music Supervisors Canada as best Sync Team, Indie Publisher and is represented worldwide.

Vince is also a multi platinum songwriter and sits on the board of directors of Music Publishers Canada



Zachary Atkinson

Executive Director
The Cap / Shivering Songs
Fredericton, NB

www.thecaplive.com |

www.shiveringongs.com

For two decades, Zachary Atkinson has quietly shaped the soundtrack of New Brunswick. Since 2003, when he first emerged as a drummer and all-ages promoter, Atkinson has helped build Fredericton's music scene from the ground up.

Today, he's the mind behind The Cap – Fredericton's essential trifecta of record store, craft brewery, and performance venues. But Atkinson's influence extends far beyond those walls. He brings warmth to winter through the Shivering Songs festival, fills summers with the City of Fredericton Concert Series, promotes events throughout the province and helps to

ensure touring acts don't bypass New Brunswick's stages.

What makes Atkinson's contribution remarkable isn't just its longevity but its purpose. For twenty years, he's created spaces where artists can develop, connect, and thrive – making his name synonymous with music community building across New Brunswick. The infrastructure he's built will continue supporting Maritime musicians for generations to come.