

**SHOW
GUIDE**

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FALL-WINTER 2023/24



deCoste
on the
ROAD

Celebrating
40
Years
deCoste
Centre for Arts
& Creativity

Sponsorships

We have been having an amazing time over the past year as we have embarked on our journey throughout the county hosting some fantastic shows at various venues as well as the Caladh Marquee this past summer. While we continue the tour again this fall as we patiently and anxiously await the opportunity to get back into what will be our newly expanded and upgraded “Cultural Hub” rebranded as the deCoste Centre for Arts & Creativity, we are very grateful for the funding partners and sponsors whose support has helped to make our vision become a reality. We couldn't have done it without them.

We look forward to seeing you again this fall as we travel throughout the county bringing some of the top performers of our nation, along with some emerging artists who will surprise you with their talent.

We wish to acknowledge the support of our many funding partners and sponsors.



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Photo by Peter Young at *Beaches Road Photography*

Executive Director's Message

It has been a great adventure touring our shows outside the theatre. While it is a fair bit of extra work, we are really enjoying working in different communities and neighbourhoods. Our hosts have been incredible, and our staff have been outright ROCK STARS! We are having a blast this summer producing over 50 shows at the Caladh Marquee on the Pictou waterfront.

The phone has been ringing off the hook with major shows and tours for the 2023/24 seasons. This is a clear sign that the performing arts sector is continuing to recover and there is a backlog of tours and new recordings to launch. We couldn't be happier to be

doing shows with Canadian icons like Bruce Cockburn, Murray McLaughlin, Chantal Kreviazuk, the Crash Test Dummies, and others. Not to be outdone, the East Coast is representing itself well with Jimmy Rankin and Lennie Gallant visiting us this fall/winter.

Our roadshow only works with your continued support and patience. No venue can compare to the deCoste's production values. We want to assure you that the wait will be worth it. Construction is going along well, and we are counting the days to a re-opening in time for summer 2024. Truly, we will have the best rural art centre in Atlantic Canada. I say 'art centre' because it will be so much more than performing arts. The new facility will bring together many artistic disciplines, along with a large, modern public library.

See you soon at a show.

Troy Greencorn, Executive Director — deCoste Centre for Arts & Creativity

deCoste Board of Directors

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There's always an occasion to celebrate: anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, graduations, promotions or sometimes it's nice to just say thank-you!

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deCoste gift cards never expire and can be used for ANY event hosted by the deCoste. Seeing a live show is more than entertainment, it's a complete experience that is sure to create a memory they won't forget! Not to mention that it won't collect dust or be turfed out in the garbage.

Call us at 902-485-8848 ext. 1 or visit www.decostecentre.ca/events-and-shows/gift-cards to purchase a gift card today!





deCoste on the **ROAD** AGAIN!

VENUE LEGEND EXPLAINED

The deCoste is "On the Road" again this fall and winter. We had so much fun and success over the past nine months, we are taking our shows on the road again. Amazing talent will continue to be showcased at venues throughout Pictou County while construction continues at the deCoste. Use the colour codes presented below for each venue as your guide to show locations. There is limited seating in some locations, so be sure to get your tickets early and avoid disappointment! We look forward to seeing you at the shows!

Glasgow Square - 155 Riverside Parkway, New Glasgow, NS

Pictou County Wellness Centre - 2-2756 Westville Rd., Pictou County, NS
Performances held in conference rooms

Pictou Legion - 130 Veterans Dr., Pictou, NS
Performances held on upper level

Merigomish Schoolhouse Community Centre
1682 Shore Rd., Merigomish, NS

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - 105 Coleraine St., Pictou, NS

Tickets & Info: www.decostecentre.ca
(902) 485-8848 | 1-800-353-5338

Box Office Location:
25B Front Street, Pictou, NS
Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

DÉBUT ATLANTIQUE



DEBUT ATLANTIC



Classical Series

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 | 7:30 PM

La Fiammata

\$25 + taxes & fees = \$35.08

Praised for their "dizzying musicality" (Süddeutsche Zeitung), Canadian piano duo La Fiammata are the second prize winners and the youngest piano duo finalists of the 70th ARD International Music Competition. Since their formation in 2015, La Fiammata has quickly emerged as one of the most promising young duos in the world. Composed of pianists Linda Ruan and Charissa Vandikas, La Fiammata made its orchestral debut in 2017, and has since performed with orchestras in Europe and North America.



the
Blushing Brides
The Original Tribute to
The Rolling Stones!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 | 7:30 PM

Blushing Brides

\$37 + taxes & fees = \$48.88

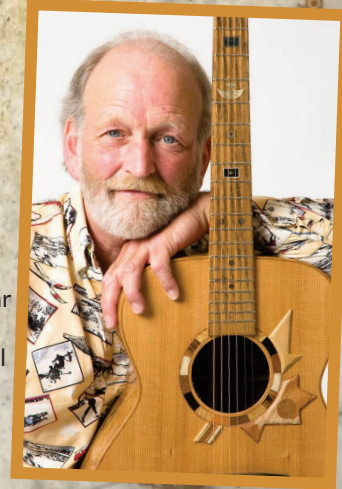
The BLUSHING BRIDES is the world's longest-running and most successful tribute to the music of the Rolling Stones, touring since 1979 with over 4,000 performances worldwide. Their longevity and showmanship set them apart from their rivals. While saluting the Rolling Stones, the Brides have developed their own distinctive sound and many originals. The spontaneous and passionate music invites audience participation, making each event a memorable experience. This is the first Nova Scotia show in decades.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 | 7:30 PM
Valdy

\$35 + taxes & fees = \$46.58

No stranger to Pictou County and the deCoste Centre, Valdy is a Canadian folk and country musician whose solo career began in the early 1970s. He is best known for 'Rock and Roll Song', his first mainstream single. Valdy is the winner of two Juno Awards for Folk Singer of the Year and Folk Entertainer of the Year and has received seven additional Juno nominations. His fourteen albums have achieved sales of nearly half a million copies, four of which are certified gold.



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A KEPPOCH GHOST STORY

STORIES AND SONGS FROM A CEILIDH HOUSE



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 | 2:00 PM

Bochans and a Birthday

\$24.50 + fees = \$30

Join the Ships of 1801 Society for their original thematic concert set in the Ceilidh House on the Keppoch. The community will be celebrating Maggie Maclean's birthday, giving the neighbours a chance to gather, exchange news, gossip, sing and dance, resulting in lots of humour and sarcasm. A troublesome black dog reappears at the Black Brook Bridge, causing concerns due to Maggie's unpleasant history with it. Amidst the chaos, Billy the Bochan gets caught up with the Black Dog and the RCMP, while his patient wife Mary Agnes tries to improve his social behaviour. Maggie would love for you to join the party, so come on out for a good time.



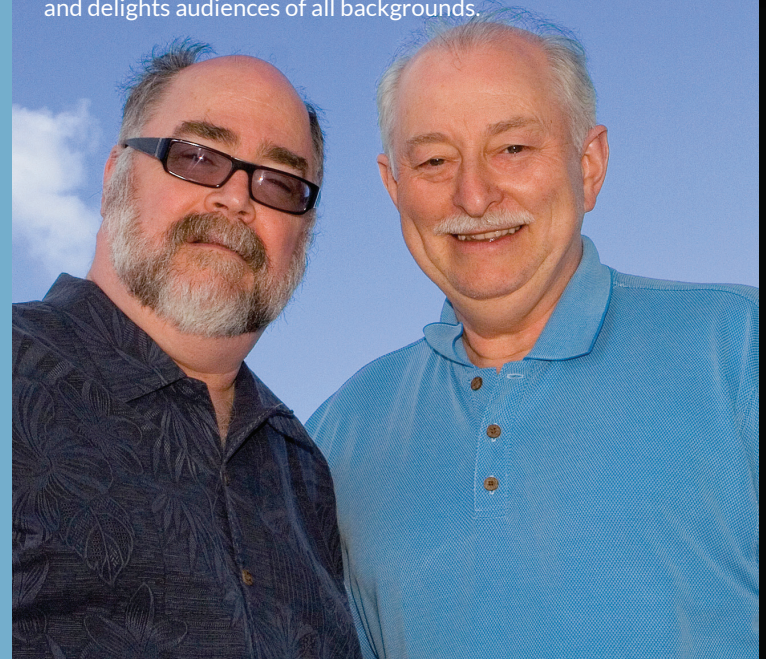
THE TOWN OF ANTIGONISH

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 7:30 PM
Evans & Doherty

\$35 + taxes & fees = \$46.58

Members \$32 + taxes & fees = \$43.13

Evans & Doherty, the dynamic duo, captivate audiences worldwide with their extraordinary talents as musicians, singers, songwriters, promoters, and producers. Their performances are an unforgettable blend of traditional and contemporary sounds. With their global reach extending from Nova Scotia to New Zealand, Evans & Doherty deliver an unparalleled musical experience that transcends borders and delights audiences of all backgrounds.





Classical Series

DÉBUT ATLANTIQUE



DEBUT ATLANTIC

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 7:30 PM

Noël Wan

\$25 + taxes & fees = \$35.08

Dr. Noël Wan, a resident of Kitchener, Ontario is a highly acclaimed Taiwanese-American harpist known for her hidden power and maturity. She made her international debut in 2010, performing with the Utrecht Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Wan has performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Concertgebouw and has collaborated with renowned artists including John Adams and Valery Gergiev. She has premiered works by various composers and can be heard on several recordings. Dr. Wan is a prize-winning harpist, holding titles such as the youngest first prize winner in the history of the Dutch Harp Festival Competition and the only two-time harp recipient of the Chimei Arts Foundation Award.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 7:30 PM

Garnet Rogers

\$35 + taxes & fees = \$46.58

Members \$32 + taxes & fees = \$43.13

Garnet Rogers, a renowned folk musician, embarked on his musical journey at a young age. Gifted with musical talent, he swiftly progressed from strumming a child's ukulele to mastering the flute, violin, and guitar. Teaming up with his older brother Stan, Garnet hit the road right after high school, forming a highly influential folk music duo. Standing at an imposing six and a half feet tall, his commanding presence matched his powerful voice, earning him accolades for his "charismatic" performances and "smooth, dark baritone" with an impressive range.

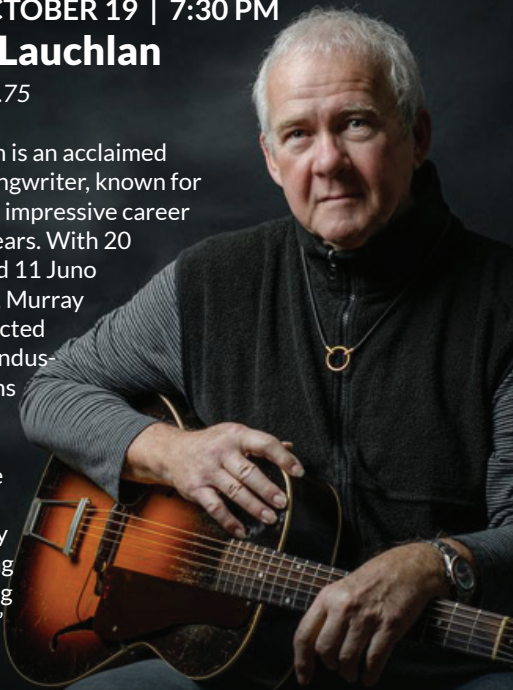
Garnet's music, infused with literary and passionate elements, delved into the depths of human emotions, capturing the unspoken language of the heart. Despite exploring everyday heroes and small victories, his songs exuded an optimistic spirit. With exceptional stage presence, quick wit, and humorous anecdotes, he effortlessly moved audiences from laughter to tears. Rejecting major label offers, Garnet remained true to his artistic vision, forging his own path in the industry, and continuously creating awe-inspiring and unpredictable music.

Merigomish Schoolhouse Community Centre

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 7:30 PM
Murray McLauchlan

\$63.25 + fees = \$68.75

Murray McLauchlan is an acclaimed Canadian singer/songwriter, known for his iconic songs and impressive career spanning over 50 years. With 20 albums released and 11 Juno awards to his name, Murray has become a respected figure in the music industry. His contributions to Canadian music include creating beloved classics like "Farmer's Song," "Down by the Henry Moore," "Whispering Rain," and "Sweeping the Spotlight Away." Beyond music, Murray is also recognized as a painter, author, actor, and radio host. His accomplishments include receiving an Honourary Doctor of Laws and being appointed to The Order of Canada. With the release of his highly praised album *Hourglass*, Murray has embarked on a new concert tour, captivating audiences with a seamless blend of old and new material. His performances offer an intimate and memorable experience, leaving listeners feeling like they're part of a close-knit gathering, as described by Kamloops This Week.

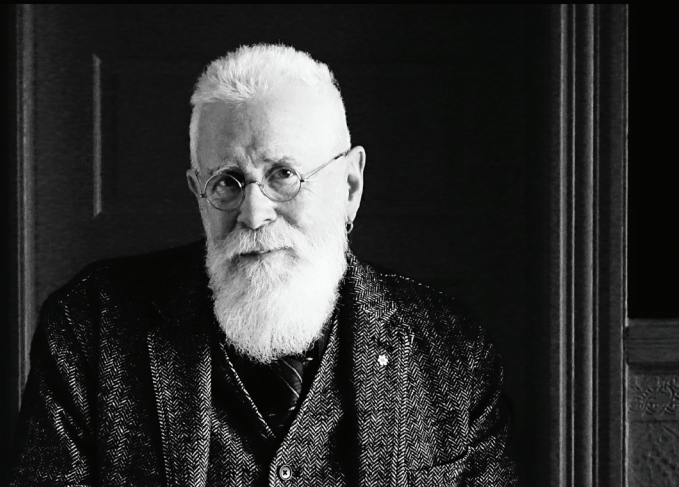


FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 7:30 PM
Bruce Cockburn

\$52 + taxes & fees = \$63.25

**50%
 SOLD!**

Bruce Cockburn, the legendary singer-songwriter, returns with his vocal album *O Sun O Moon* after a four-year hiatus. This remarkable release showcases 11 songs reflecting his activism and humanist songwriting, covering themes of politics, climate change, spirituality, forgiveness, and love. Collaborating with close friend Colin Linden, who produced and played guitar, Cockburn enlists talented musicians like Shawn Colvin, Buddy Miller, and Allison Russell. With 13 JUNO Awards and numerous accolades, Cockburn's legacy as a masterful musician and activist remains unparalleled. Despite feeling creatively spent after writing his memoirs, he draws from his rich musical career to deliver a captivating album that continues to inspire.



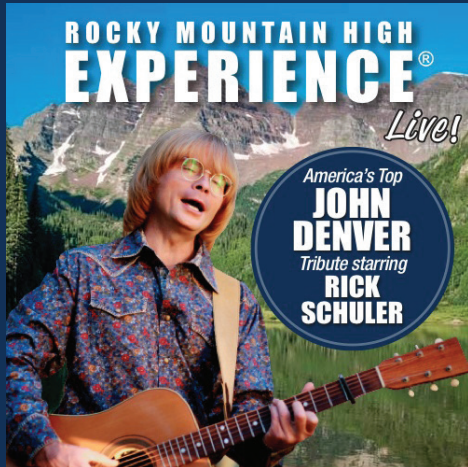
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 | 7:30 PM

Rocky Mountain High Experience

\$38.98 + taxes & fees = \$51.15

John Denver's legacy continues on through his many hit songs, including: 'Rocky Mountain High', 'Take Me Home Country Roads', 'Thank God I'm a Country Boy', 'Annie's Song', 'Back Home Again', 'Sunshine On My Shoulders', 'Leaving On A Jet Plane' and more! Many generations have adored this amazing singer, songwriter, actor, and humanitarian.

Relive the music of John Denver with award-winning Rick Schuler as he creates an unforgettable John Denver experience. The similarity between Schuler's and Denver's voice is uncanny and Schuler brings to the stage the unmistakable enthusiasm that was a hallmark of a John Denver concert.



Pictou County Wellness Centre

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 7:30 PM

Jimmy Rankin

\$43.18 + taxes & fees = \$55.98

Jimmy Rankin, a Canadian country music legend, has left an indelible mark on the industry over his three-decade career. Born and raised in Mabou, Nova Scotia, his musical destiny was clear. As part of the Rankin Family, he achieved international acclaim, receiving numerous awards. Jimmy's solo career flourished after the band's hiatus, releasing acclaimed albums that showcased his exceptional talent as a singer-songwriter. His soul-stirring lyrics and emotionally charged melodies have resonated with audiences worldwide. From chart-topping hits like 'Followed Her Around' to introspective storytelling in songs like 'Fare Thee Well Love,' Jimmy's music transcends genres, captivating hearts everywhere. Don't miss the chance to experience this charismatic artist's unforgettable performances.



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | 7:30 PM

Ron James Not Nearly Done Yet

\$68 + fees = \$73.50



**65%
SOLD!**



Ron James is a renowned Canadian comedian and author who has spent 25 years traversing the country's roads, earning the title of our nation's top road warrior. Despite being a newly minted senior citizen, Ron shows no signs of slowing down and declares that he is 'Not Nearly Done Yet.' Armed with his trademark alliterative rants and impeccable timing, this award-winning comedian takes audiences on an exhilarating roller coaster ride of laughter. From dissecting the challenges of Baby Boomer dating to tackling political polarization, embattled healthcare, aging parents, and much more, Ron fearlessly explores the absurdities of our world. The Globe and Mail describes him as 'a man of a million words and a million laughs,' and his performances provoke contemplation on what truly matters in a society overwhelmed by consumption. For Ron, the preservation of our humanity amidst the chaos is paramount, making everything else just a mere distraction.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 7:30 PM

Stick & Bow

\$25 + taxes & fees = \$35.08

DÉBUT ATLANTIQUE



DEBUT ATLANTIC



Classical Series

Stick & Bow is a ground-breaking Montreal duo, blending diverse genres from Bach to Radiohead. Comprising of Canadian marimba player Krystina Marcoux and Argentinian cellist Juan Sebastian Delgado, they offer a rich musical spectrum including rock, gypsy-jazz, baroque, and tango. Their debut album, *Resonance*, was hailed as "brilliant" and "delightful." They toured extensively in Quebec and New Brunswick with Jeunesses Musicales du Canada, as well as performing in Paris and New York City. Recent accomplishments include the commissioned show 'All the Madmen', fusing Beethoven, David Bowie, and Tom Waits, and appearances at the Bach Festival Montreal and Festival du Bout du Monde in Gaspé, exploring various folk traditions.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 7:30 PM
Chantal Kreviazuk & Raine Maida

\$43.18 + taxes & fees = \$55.98



Chantal Kreviazuk and Raine Maida are a prominent Canadian cultural couple. Kreviazuk, a two-time JUNO Award winner, gained critical acclaim with her debut album in 1997 and has since released five more albums. Maida, the frontman for Our Lady Peace, has a successful solo career and has been nominated for JUNO Awards 25 times. They have co-written hits for various artists and received the 2014 Allan Waters Humanitarian Award for their contributions to Canada. The couple actively supports causes like women's rights, war refugees, and child education through organizations like War Child Canada, for which they have recorded contributions and launched fundraising initiatives.



Pictou County Wellness Centre

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 | 7:30 PM
Danny Michel & Steve Poltz

\$35.20 + taxes and fees = \$46.81

Danny and Steve met at a little Canadian folk festival a dozen years ago and became quick pals, creating one-of-a-kind live musical experiences on the spot.

Danny Michel is one of Canada's finest songwriters. A musical chameleon, able to slip into many genres with ease. An adventurous and unbounded artist, Danny's single 'Don't Be So Hard On Yourself' was the 2022 #1 Fan Voted Song Of The Year on CBC Music's Top 20.

Halifax-born, California-raised Steve Poltz is a storytelling genius, weaving threads through songs to make you laugh and cry. He's hyper, charismatic, spontaneous, and joyous. A little bit Robin Williams, a little bit James Taylor — a live show legend.

On this tour, they'll hit the stage with their own solo sets and sweeten the evening with impromptu collaborations. Carefree. Fearless. You must be there to see it LIVE. Expect the unexpected.



Pictou Legion

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | 7:30 PM

Crash Test Dummies

\$47.37 + taxes & fees = \$60.78

The Crash Test Dummies tour across Canada with their 2002 Christmas album *Jingle All the Way*. Recorded at New York City's 'The Magic Shop', the album, praised by journalist Martin Keller, offers a mix of delightful holiday camp, irony, and genuine reverence. It includes Brad Roberts' slow rendition of 'White Christmas' with a heavy Hammond Organ, Ellen Reid's country-western take on 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', and Ming Xioo-Fen's Oriental influence on 'We Three Kings'. The group also presents traditional songs like 'The Huron Carol' and 'In The Bleak Midwinter' with reverence. The stage show will feature original members Brad Roberts, Ellen Reid, Dan Roberts, and Mitch Dorge, along with Stuart Cameron and newcomer Leith Fleming-Smith. The album will be available on vinyl and streaming services.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | 7:30 PM

Classic Seger

\$35 + taxes & fees = \$46.58

'Classic Seger' is Bob Seger's Greatest Hits Live Tribute tour, captivating audiences in North America with their impressive mix of classic hits and deep-cut gems. With a 9-piece band known for their stage chemistry and energy, this critically acclaimed production takes fans back to the rock 'n' roll era of the 1970s and 80s. Bob Seger, a Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame member, has sold over 75 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling musical acts in history. Don't miss the raw power of 'Classic Seger' as they perform favourites like 'Night Moves', 'Turn the Page', 'Hollywood Nights', and more. It's a concert you won't forget!



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 7:30 PM

\$43 + taxes & fees = \$55.78

This holiday season, we're shaking it up!! We will be celebrating Christmas Cape Breton style, of course, but this year, Bette, Maynard, and Jordan will be joined by Juno Award nominees, Wendy MacIsaac and Mac Morin. Crowd favourites, Mary Morrison, Wayne Tomko, Martin McKinnon, Beaver, and Beulah will be back but there are also some newcomers to the neighbourhood! This new show is jam-packed with big belly laughs, the best of East Coast music and the finest dance steps this side of Parliament Hill! Christmas In Cape Breton will be the holiday party of the season!!!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 | 7:30 PM

Lennie Gallant
The Innkeeper's Christmas

\$43.18 + taxes & fees = \$55.98



Lennie Gallant's Christmas concert, named after his beloved song 'The Innkeeper', will showcase original Christmas songs from one of his more recent projects, along with tracks from his last album, 'Time Travel', and Francophone project, 'Sirène et Matelot', with Patricia Richard.

The intimate setting will feature Patricia, Jeremy Gallant, and Sean Kemp. As a celebration of Christmas and a platform for newer along with some favourite songs, the concert promises surprises and memorable moments.

Lennie Gallant's impressive career includes 13 albums, numerous awards and nominations, and his induction into the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 | 7:30 PM

A Gunning & Cormier Christmas

\$30 + taxes & fees = \$41 | Members \$27 + taxes & fees = \$37.38

Get in the holiday spirit with a magical evening of music and laughter as acclaimed musicians Dave Gunning and JP Cormier join forces for an unforgettable Christmas show. Hailed as two of the busiest solo artists in the country, Gunning and Cormier, winners of the 2019 East Coast Music Awards, bring their exceptional talent and charismatic stage presence to create A Gunning & Cormier Christmas like no other. Featuring a delightful mix of beloved classics and new holiday tunes, this show promises an enchanting experience filled with joy and merriment. Don't miss out on this must-see event that will leave you with lasting memories and a heart full of cheer.

Pictou Legion



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | 7:30 PM

Duo Cordelia

\$25 + taxes & fees = \$35.08

DÉBUT ATLANTIQUE



DEBUT ATLANTIC



Duo Cordelia, formed in 2016, features violinist and composer Vanessa Marcoux and pianist Marie-Christine Poirier. Highly active in the Canadian classical music scene, the duo pushes boundaries by blending improvisation, diverse repertoire, traditional melodies, and Vanessa's original compositions. This fusion of classical and lesser-known works creates a deeply moving concert experience, bridging musical universes.

The duo has received grants from the Quebec and Canada Arts Councils and is preparing to release their debut album in 2023. Vanessa Marcoux, a skilled violinist and composer, holds degrees from prestigious institutions and has performed worldwide as a soloist and chamber musician, exploring various genres. Marie-Christine Poirier, a pianist, has a master's degree and has gained recognition as part of the Duo Fortin-Poirier. Alongside Vanessa, Marie-Christine performs with Duo Cordelia, teaches, and delivers solo performances across Canada, Mexico, the USA, and Europe.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 | 7:30 PM

Guy Davis

\$35 + taxes & fees = \$46.58

Members \$32 + taxes & fees = \$43.13

Guy Davis is a true luminary of acoustic blues, widely regarded as one of the premier exponents of the genre worldwide. With his exceptional skills on both the guitar and the harmonica, he effortlessly weaves captivating tales through his music. Renowned for his distinct and compelling voice, Guy possesses an innate ability to transport listeners to another time and place with his heartfelt performances. As a master storyteller, he has garnered immense respect and admiration, solidifying his position as one of the eminent figures among contemporary blues artists. Guy Davis's immense talent and unwavering dedication to his craft have rightfully earned him a place among the true greats of his generation.



Pictou Legion

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 | 7:30 PM
Epic Eagles Tribute

\$40 + taxes & fees = \$52.33
 Members
 \$37 + taxes & fees = \$48.88

Canada's Definitive Eagles Tribute Band brings you back to the golden days of the legendary band 'The Eagles' all the way through to the present. *Hotel California, One of These Nights, Life in the Fast Lane, Desperado, Take It Easy...* Epic Eagles will be performing these and other chart-toppers, along with some deep cuts for the die-hard Eagles & Don Henley fans.



Featuring the voice of Dean Young covering Henley; Dean held this position for almost 2 decades with the Canadian tribute 'Hotel California' - 2003-2018. Performing alongside the incredible vocalist/multi-instrumentalist Mike Alonzo, covering Glenn Frey/Joe Walsh/Timothy B Schmit/Randy Meisner, with the amazing Jeff Salem (drums, percussion), Dan Bohemier (bass, keys) and Frank Koren (guitar, vocals). Providing a masterful presentation of the Eagles' music, with its rock n' roll game-changing song catalogue. Perfecting the music while sharing incredible lead vocal similarity, audiences are treated to a high-energy show with the legacy sound of the Eagles and Don Henley.

Experience & relive an era gone by...and into the next millennium. You are about to soar high with 'Epic Eagles'!
 "You can check out anytime you like but you can never leave..."

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 | 7:30 PM
Island Girls

\$42 + taxes & fees = \$54.63

The deCoste is pleased to present the Savoy Theatre's production of ISLAND GIRLS Music & Comedy, featuring four of Cape Breton's busiest female performers: Bette MacDonald, Heather Rankin, Lucy MacNeil and Jenn Sheppard.

The Fab Fem Four – each representing a different facet of Cape Breton Island's entertainment community – are set to combine their individual musical and comedic talents, to take audiences on a journey to celebrate all things Cape Breton. Show-goers can expect to enjoy some belly laughs while they catch up with a few familiar characters, sing along with some old favourites and maybe even hear some new ones. This show is sure to help you shake off those winter blues!





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