



Our new theatre seats ensure your comfort while maintaining the flexibility required to host a variety of events. We're excited to offer you 3 investment options:

Solo Performer - \$250

1 seat purchased 1 year of recognition Tax receipt

Dynamic Duo - \$500

2 seats purchased 2 years of recognition Tax receipt

Family & Friends- \$1000

4 seats purchased 3 years of recognition Tax receipt

Recognition will include listing on digital screens and acknowledgement in a future program book.

You decide what option best suits your interests! We encourage individuals, organizations and companies to consider multiple seats.

To learn more about our **Be Seated** campaign, please visit our kiosk at summer and fall events, or contact Jennifer MacLennan at our office, by phone (902) 485-8848, or by email jennifer@decostecentre.ca.

Payment plans available upon request.



This is an exciting time for our region. The deCoste Centre has been a proud fixture in our community for decades, and this expansion will further enhance the venue offerings for families, residents and visitors alike. Our government is proud to have made investments that have contributed to establishing an expanded cultural hub that will make our community a more vibrant and dynamic place to call home.

I commend the dedicated team of staff and community volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this dream a reality.

I look forward to seeing the doors open this fall and to take in all that the deCoste has to offer. Congratulations on this exciting line up!

Honourable Sean Fraser,
Member of Parliament, Central Nova and
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

Premier's Message

On behalf of the province and as a Pictou County MLA, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the grand re-opening of the deCoste Performing Arts Centre. This event marks the revival of our community's cultural and artistic spirit.

The deCoste, with its rich history of fostering creativity and showcasing talent, stands as a testament to our collective commitment to building up the arts in Nova Scotia. The renovations and enhancements you see today were designed to inspire both artists and audiences, ensuring that the deCoste remains a cultural cornerstone in our region.

As we celebrate, let us commend the tireless efforts of everyone involved in bringing this vision to life. I am excited about the new opportunities of artistic expression and cultural enrichment that the deCoste Performing Arts Centre will bring.

Thank you for your continued support and passion for the arts. Enjoy the performances, the renewed facilities, and the shared experiences that await us.

Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia





Executive Director's Message

In 2015 the dream of a culture hub was born. The Town of Pictou called together the deCoste and Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) with an idea. The deCoste was showing its age and needing significant work as it neared 40 years old, and Pictou was in need of a new library. Were the deCoste and PARL interested in charting a common vision for a shared facility? Consensus came quick and a beautiful project began to take shape. Nearly nine years later both teams are preparing to re-open the brand new deCoste. We are calling it a cultural hub, which simply means

we are gathering a group of cultural organizations together to share space and collaborate on projects and programs. That partnering has already begun, so we are excited about all the new activity and benefits that are to come.

We are nearing this historic milestone because of tremendous support from the community and government, as well as the passion, energy, creativity and willingness of our staff and board to constantly adapt to keep the shows going. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic and over two years of construction, the shows have continued to roll in seven other venues and on the Pictou waterfront. That speaks volumes about the team.

We are so excited to soon swing open the doors of the newly expanded and renovated facility. You will see that Pictou now has the most innovative rural cultural facility in Atlantic Canada. We won't rest on the merits of the physical facility. Our blended deCoste, PARL and Creative Pictou County teams will bring the facility to life with many new programs and events. The future is going to be bright.

Troy Greencorn — Executive Director - deCoste Performing Arts Centre

deCoste Board of Directors

Crystal MacKinnon-Murray - Chairperson

Jennifer Langille | Michael MacKean | Melinda MacKenzie | Sally O'Neill | Leslie Otter | Jamie Playfair | Joel Sellers



Mayor's Message

On behalf of the Town of Pictou, I congratulate the deCoste Performing Arts Centre and the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library on the grand opening of the deCoste Culture Hub. This impressive state-of-the-art gathering place, linking our main street to our beautiful waterfront, has combined two essential and successful organizations to create a space for residents and guests to gather, celebrate, create, and reflect. The successful integration of modern architecture into our historic community and the many art installations reflecting our past, present, and future evoke pride in our heritage and will inspire all who visit.

A contemporary library and shared common spaces will increase opportunities for hosting events. At the same time, the significant enhancements to the deCoste theatre will continue to support the high-quality entertainment to which we have become accustomed over the past 40 years.

Thank you to the staff, the various working groups and the many generous corporate and communityminded partners who helped to make this exciting project happen. Your contributions to our community are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Jim Ryan — Mayor of the Town of Pictou



deCoste Board Chair's Message

We are just a few short and sweet summer months away from the grand re-opening of the deCoste Performing Arts Centre.

As many of you know, while the doors to your theatre were closed, many more were opened. The amazing team took the deCoste on the road, showcasing over a hundred performances in gathering spaces all around our community. We will all remember the energy on the waterfront last summer and under the big tent as we celebrated

some epic milestones for our little seaside town, including the 40th anniversary of the deCoste.

The last few years have been interesting times for everyone involved in this project. I am truly honoured to be serving as the Chair of the deCoste during this period of transformation. For all of us board members this experience has demonstrated the art of possibility and the importance of never underestimating the power of bold vision and determination.

While the finishes on these dynamic new spaces are completed, there is still an amazing summer season of music and art curated for you, our patrons. Performers need audiences and I believe that deCoste audiences are the best of the best. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.

I also want to thank the board of directors for sharing their time and talents. We are temporary stewards of this important community asset. Your insights and thoughtful decision-making have set the stage for many years of success. Finally, to the small but mighty deCoste staff; Troy Greencorn, Nancy MacDonald, Jennifer MacLennan, Rodger Leeder and Al Gunn. Our community is lucky to have you and we are forever grateful for all your contributions and special care.

We are deeply grateful to our many donors and supporters that we will continue to celebrate in the months and years ahead.

Crystal Murray — Board Chair - deCoste Performing Arts Centre



Warden's Message

Congratulations and a heartfelt thanks to all those who have worked so hard and achieved so much with the new centrepiece for Pictou and all the surrounding communities. The new deCoste Culture Hub will not only revitalize downtown Pictou but will add a whole new dimension for all of Pictou County with the spectacular new library and refreshed and rejuvenated deCoste Performing Arts Centre.

Our council was proud to play a part in this greatly needed project and looks forward to many years of entertainment, education, and fun.

Best wishes on your grand re-opening.

Robert Parker — Warden for Municipality of Pictou County

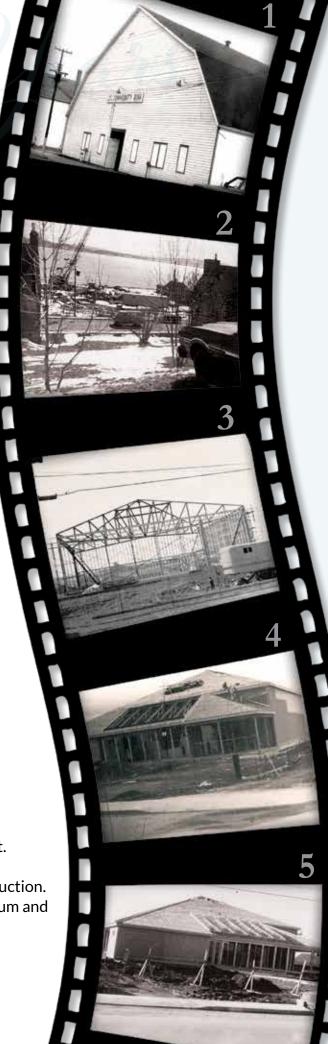
The Early Years 1982



deCoste under construction 1981/82

We are creating a book to celebrate 40 years of memories. The following history and tidbits come from the writing team of former deCoste Artistic Director John Meir, former Pictou Advocate Editor Jackie Jardine, and current deCoste Executive Director Troy Greencorn.

- **1.** The deCoste sits on the site of the former community rink, which was torn down to make room for the new theatre.
- 2. With aspirations of developing the waterfront to become a major tourism draw, the Town of Pictou identified an entertainment centre as a priority project; 100% of funding was available from federal and provincial funders.
- **3.** A wood-intensive design was selected for the new theatre, a choice that has made the centre one of the best sounding rooms in Atlantic Canada. The facility has also fit well with surrounding architecture.
- **4.** As the Pictou waterfront has developed, the deCoste has has become a juncture of Water Street, the Jitney Trail and Caladh Avenue, which runs along the developed waterfront.
- **5.** Several expansions have taken place since the initial construction. The building prior to construction in 2023, featured an atrium and large deck along the east side of the facility.



A Vision for the Arts

Even 40 years ago, the Town of Pictou saw the potential of developing its waterfront. They formed the Pictou and Area Development Corporation and tasked them with leading a Marine Square Development Project. The forward-thinking members luckily saw a performing arts centre as the lead demand generator and the concept for the deCoste took shape.

Early in 1981, the federal and provincial governments jointly announced funding for a multi-use entertainment and marine hospitality centre in Pictou. It would be built on Water Street, where the old community rink was located. The building was to be a 400 to 500 seat theatre. It was designed for a variety of uses ranging from conventions to plays, concerts to fundraisers and more. Duffus Romans Architects designed the building, with the chief architect being Roy Willwerth, who had a summer home outside of Pictou. Dineen Construction (Atlantic) Ltd. was awarded the contract for construction.

Eighty percent funding came from the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and the 20% from the NS Department of Tourism, with no financial expectation from the town. Support from provincial and federal government representatives, Pictou West MLA, Don McInnis, and Central Nova MP, Elmer MacKay, helped to access the money. The Town of Pictou received \$969,000 to build the deCoste and marina building on the waterfront. Initial funding wasn't sufficient to finish the building, so the provincial Department of Culture provided an additional \$225,000 grant, spread over three years. This was combined with an employment grant that provided the labour to complete the facility.

Behind the Lights Celebrating 40 Years OF MEMORIES



Rita MacNeil

"The official opening. The foyer jammed with dignitaries. Speeches over. Wine and cheese politely sipped and supped. The voice of an unknown angel fills the hall. Who is it? Can't she afford shoes? What's her name again? Rita who? Rita MacNeil!" — John Meir (JM)

Doc Watson

Listening from the wings as the legend is led to his chair... and listening to the sweetest guitar solos this side of Nashville from Doc Watson, the master of folk, bluegrass and country blues. — JM





Liona Boyd

"Frantic search for a chair exactly 16" high, no arms and upholstered seat. The owner and loaner now has it back in her living room, with Liona's autograph plainly visible to anyone willing to crawl underneath and look up." — JM

The Mamas & Papas

A legendary folk/rock group formed in Los Angeles, the band featured John Phillips, Cass Elliot, Michelle Phillips and Canadian Denny Doherty. In a four year period they released five albums and sold 40 million records. The band split in 1969, but reunited in 1980, without Cass and Michelle. The new line-up of John Phillips, Denny Doherty, MacKenzie Philips and Elaine "Spanky" McFarlane visited the deCoste.



KD Lang

"Born in Alberta, KD collaborated with Roy Orbison, Tony Bennett, Elton John, and Anne Murray. As a new artist, she drew a modest crowd. In champion fashion, she invited them all up on stage with her." — JM

Ronnie Hawkins

"Two hours of full tilt boogie..." — JM





k.d.lang

With love from Edmonton



"Even as a young adult, I was pretty excited to see a TV icon I had watched growing up!"

- Nancy MacDonald, Staff Member





Sharon, Lois and Bram

After 17 recordings and 40 years of touring they mastered the art of crowd engagement. "Maybe we should book them for New Year's Eve - they have the knack for getting people on their feet right away." — JM

More great stories, highlights and more on the horizon! Stay tuned!





Tiny Tim

"No longer the thousands lining up outside the Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco in 1967 - just a few curious folks witnessing eccentricity at its most bizarre as 62 year old Tiny Tim tiptoes onstage with his trusty ukulele and warbling falsetto voice." — JM

Makem & Clancy

"Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy have long been purveyors of traditional Irish Music. Both together and separately, they have made many stops at the theatre and influenced a generation of others that came after." — Troy Greencorn





A Launchpad to International Stages

John Allan Cameron

Generally regarded as the "Godfather of Celtic Music" in Atlantic Canada, John Allan was a regular at the theatre over the years. He played a special role performing, emceeing, and acting as an ambassador for the Hector Festival, a project the deCoste took a lead role in producing.





Bette and Maynard

You heard it here first, but certain phrases take that long to work their way into everyday vocabulary. But now we know the proper answer to the colloquial greeting - "How's it going, eh?" All together now... "Good, Dear. Good."



The Barra MacNeils

The Barras have a long and strong attachment to the deCoste.

Helping the young band make the transition from Cèilidhs to concert halls, Artistic Director John Meir was an early manager and mentor.

The Barra's Christmas shows remain a cherished tradition.





Dave Gunning

Dave is one of Atlantic Canada's busiest touring artists, playing venues and festivals around the world. He cut his performance teeth on the deCoste stage and as an understudy to John Meir and Darlene MacDonald. From doing sound and lights as a summer student to selling out the theatre night after night, this is a beautiful story that makes us proud of our hometown talent!



Like the Barras, John worked with Natalie early in her career. It is tough for a new artist to gain a foothold with performing arts centres so the deCoste connection helped launch a very successful career that is still flourishing.





George Canyon

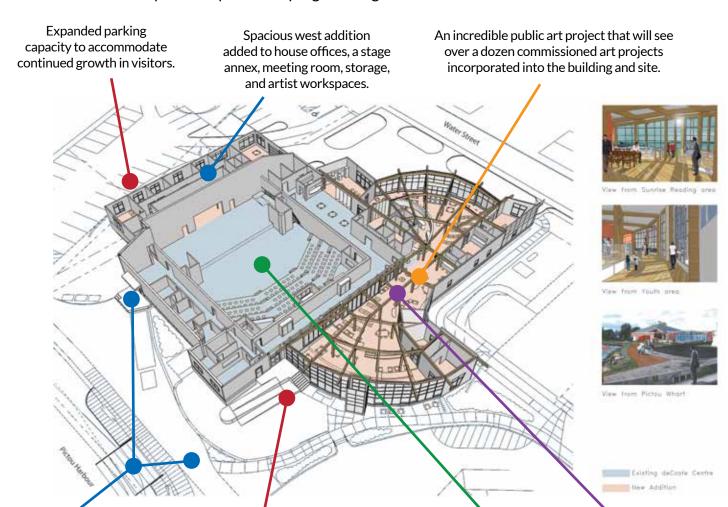
Pictou County musician and former bylaw enforcement officer/special constable places second in the Nashville Star reality show. The rest, as they say, is history. In a brilliant career that has already spanned decades, George has toured the world, released multiple recordings, written a book, become an honorary colonel, and done incredible work for youth with juvenile diabetes. It all started with high school productions on the deCoste stage.



THE DECOSTE - A CULTURAL HUB FOR PICTOU COUNTY

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2024

We can't wait to welcome you to the new deCoste facility this fall. Nearly nine years of planning, fundraising, and construction will culminate in the 'grand re-opening' of this exciting new hub and gathering space. Keep an eye out for more information on deCoste and library programs and events as we prepare for this historic partnership. We are excited for the fall lineup and the partnered programming to come.



Enhanced loading dock and Jitney Trail entry incorporating boardwalk, paved trail, and sea stairs.

Significant accessibility features throughout the facility, as well as advanced energy efficiency and climate resiliency features.

An extensive renovation of the theatre. While remaining the same capacity, all aspects are being upgraded and refreshed.

A 10,000 + sq. ft. expansion hosts a beautiful, modern, public library and additional shared spaces.

Come Together!













Discover. Connect. Imagine!

Welcome to your new public library; we're an open book and so much more!

We're excited to move into our new library this fall. Everyone is welcome to drop by, explore our shelves in-person or online, including the newest fiction and nonfiction titles. Our Virtual Library online also provides free access to thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies, and newspapers - all at your fingertips, with your free PARL card. We invite you to come in, relax by the fireplace, enjoy the gardens, or unwind in the Sunset Reading Room overlooking the harbour.

Need a quiet place to work or study? Our library offers free high-speed WiFi, comfortable seating, public computers, study carrels, and charging spots. The new library will also feature community meeting rooms and offices for nonprofit groups. For more information or to reserve, please contact us. Printing, photocopying, scanning, and faxing services are also available for a small fee.

Love exploring new frontiers? Discover the evolving digital technologies in the MakerSpace. Drop by and learn about 3D printing, vinyl cutting, coding, and more, with our Emerging Technology Assistant.

Looking to connect with the community? We offer over 50 free programs monthly for all ages and abilities - such as ABCs for Babies, book clubs, crafting circles, French and Gaelic discussion clubs, and so much more. Check our PARL events calendar at www.parl.ns.ca or call us at (902) 485-5021.

Want to try something new? With your library card you can borrow Nordic walking poles, telescopes, snowshoes, radon detectors, jigsaw puzzles, Play Packs, Fidget Kits, Fun Fit passes, Dementia Friendly Memory Kits, and more. We also have a SADS Light Therapy Lamp, a CNIB Play collection, and board games for in-library use.

In search of inspiration and discovering our communities' stories? Wander through the library, and enjoy public art by local artists and artisans at the Culture Hub. Currently, the Pictou Library houses special collections like the Gaelic Nova Scotian Collection and the Bud White Collection. The new location will expand to include a larger Indigenous Collection. PARL also hosts the NovaStory digital collection of historical documents at www.novastory.ca.

See you at the library soon!

(902) 485-5021 pictou@parl.ns.ca www.parl.ns.ca





The deCoste believes that the arts are an integral part of our lives, and that everyone has the right to access and experience the magical world of the performing arts.

Long time volunteer Stacey Munro can be seen using our wheelchair elevator to access the theatre's general admission section.

The deCoste Performing Arts Centre has long been a cherished gathering place for Pictou County and Northern Nova Scotia residents. Our latest expansion and upgrades prioritize creating a barrier-free environment to welcome the entire community. Our new facility now boasts external and internal ramps, mechanical lifts, barrier-free washrooms, and an enhanced hearing-assist system, among other improvements.

To further this commitment, we've launched the **Arts for All** program, designed to eliminate barriers for those with physical (vision, mobility, hearing, etc.) and social, or economic barriers. Our goal is to create a warm and welcoming space for everyone.

As part of this initiative, we offer complimentary and discounted tickets through community partnerships. For example, we partner with the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library loaning passes that can be redeemed for select shows to enhance affordability.

We encourage community organizations to contact us to discuss needs and ideas.

Whether booking a hearing assist device, arranging assistance with the wheelchair lift, securing optimal seating based on your needs, or simply making you feel more comfortable in our facility, we are here to help. Contact the deCoste staff for more information. We encourage a call or visit before you come for an event.

Our team looks forward to welcoming you. We will be scheduling tours of our upgraded facility as we get closer to reopening.





Highland Community Residential Services at a performance meeting the artists



If you represent a community agency and are interested in offering tickets to your clients through this program, please contact Jennifer MacLennan at jennifer@decostecentre.ca or call 902-485-8848.







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THANKS to our Venue Hosts...

- Pictou County Wellness Centre Pictou Legion
- Glasgow Square Merigomish Schoolhouse Community Centre
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church The River Gallery on Water St.
- Pictou Landing First Nations School





Yours Truly, Cape Breton Caladh Marquee Tent



Valdy — Pictou Legion

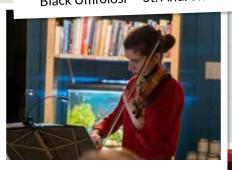


Black Umfolosi — St. Andrew's PC



Matt Anderson — PCWC





Duo Cordelia - The River Gallery



Owen O'Sound Lee Caladh Marquee Tent



Terra Spencer Pictou Legion



Rawlins Cross — Glasgow Square



The Once — Merigomish SHCC

Thank you to our Sponsors!











Box Office Information & Seating Chart

BOX OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.

ORDERING TICKETS: Tickets are available online or contact the box office by phone or in person. PAYMENT OPTIONS: We accept VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, INTERAC and CASH.

Members can put tickets "on hold" and pay for the performance 2 weeks before the performance, or release the hold.

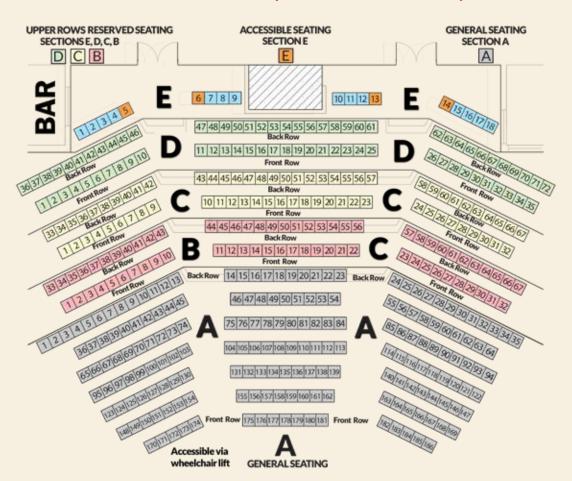
ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: Contact box office staff to inquire about accessible seating, reserving specialized equipment for hearing impairments, or for additional assistance for clients experiencing visual impairments or social anxiety that may be accommodated. Large groups are encouraged to book through the box office to discuss particulars.

REFUNDS EXCHANGES CREDITS: Refunds won't be made once the ticket is purchased unless a show sells out and the ticket can be resold.

CANCELLATIONS: All programs are subject to change or be cancelled without notice. Rescheduling of performances may not be possible. Refunds/exchanges/credits will be determined based on the situation.

For up-to-date information, or to purchase tickets contact us at:

902-485-8848 or Toll Free: 1-800-353-5338 | info@decostecentre.ca | www.decostecentre.ca





deCoste Performing Arts Centre P.O. Box 39, 99 Water Street, Pictou, N.S., BOK 1HO

Our Kick-off Performances



Men of the Deeps



The Jim Cuddy Band



David Potvin



Symphony NS
With JP Cormier & Dave Gunning



Lisa MacIssac, Cassie & Maggie MacDonald, and Sally Taylor



Catherine MacLellan



Dear Patrons,

We are thrilled to welcome you back to the deCoste Performing Arts Centre as we reopen our doors in our 42nd year! After nearly five challenging years marked by COVID-19 and construction, we are excited to share our newly upgraded facility with you.

Enjoy new seating, additional washrooms, a new bar, expanded kitchen facilities, offices, a new library, and an array of art and space for Creative Pictou County (CPC). We look forward to the opportunities the partnerships with Pictou-Antigonish Library and CPC will create.

Your unwavering support has been invaluable. We also want to thank the staff and volunteers of the Pictou County Wellness Centre, Pictou Legion, Glasgow Square, Merigomish Schoolhouse Community Centre, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pictou Landing First Nations School, and The River Gallery on Water Street. Their partnerships allowed us to continue bringing great entertainment to Northern Nova Scotia. It's also important to give a special shout-out to our dedicated volunteers who were awesome troupers helping us wherever needed.

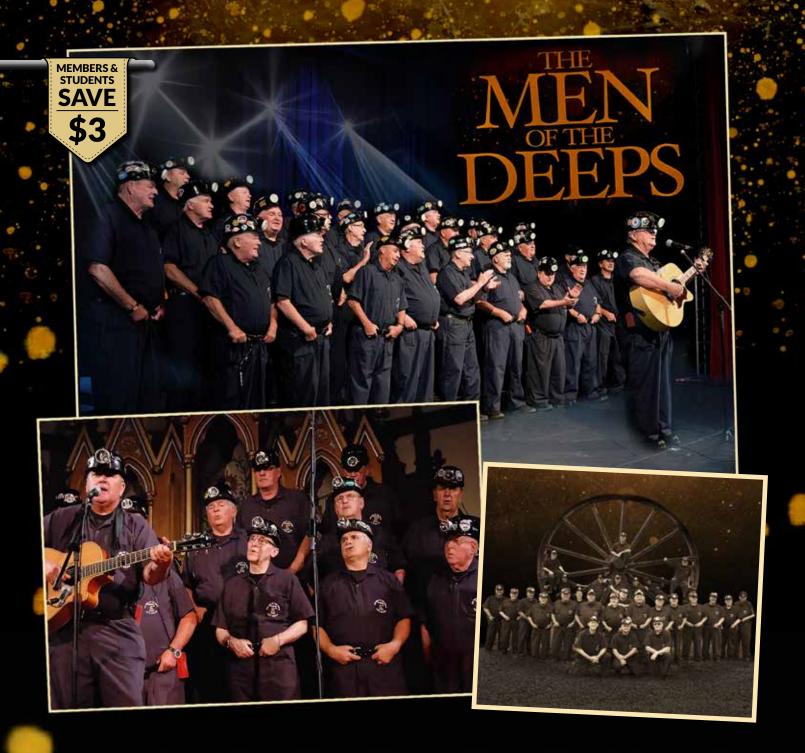
We look forward to seeing your smiling faces often as we embark on this new chapter. Thank you for sticking with us, and welcome back!

Warm regards, The deCoste Performing Arts Centre Team Troy, Jennifer, Nancy, Rodger & Al







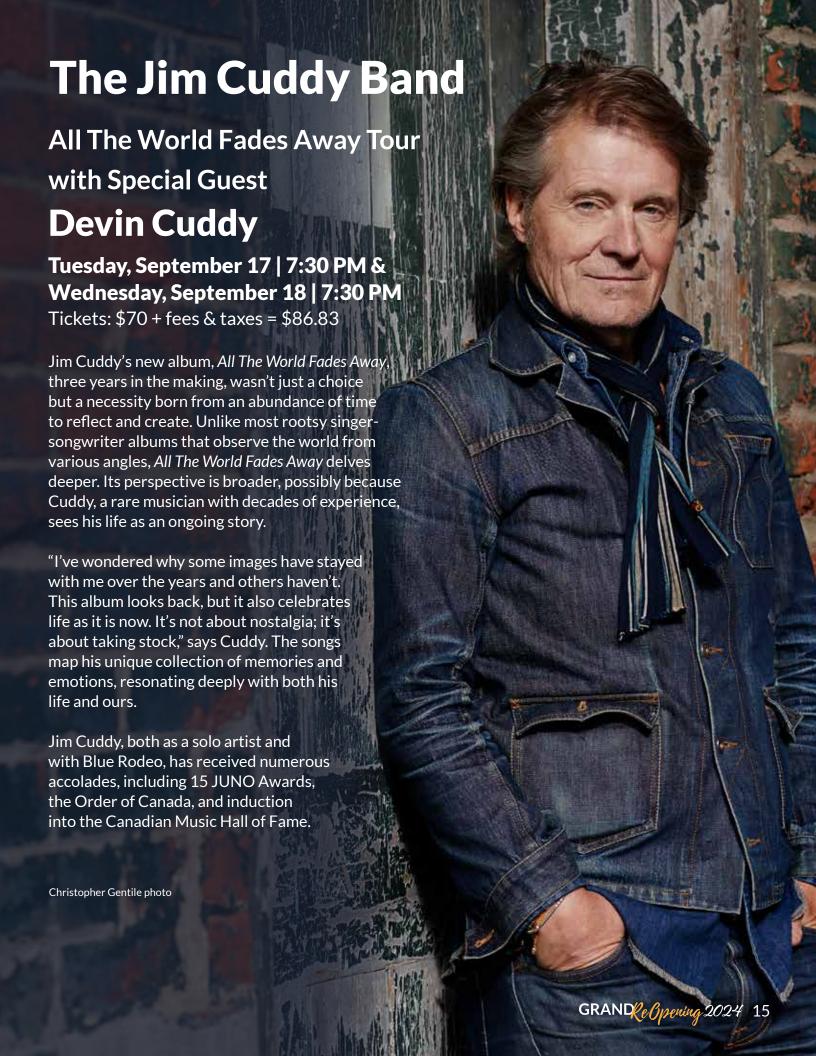


Sunday, September 15 | 2:00 PM

Tickets: \$38 + fees & taxes = \$50.03

Member & Student Pricing: \$35 + fees & taxes = \$46.58

The Men of the Deeps have been playing Pictou and the deCoste almost since the theatre opened in 1982. They appeared many times along with Rita MacNeil. Pictou County, with its rich history of coal mining, has a strong connection to their songs and stories. It is pure magic when North America's only coal miner choir takes the stage. Who better to be the first concert in the newly refurbished deCoste?





DÉBUT ATLANTIQUE



David Potvin

Thursday, September 19 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$35 + fees & taxes = \$46.58

Member & Student Pricing: \$32 + fees & taxes = \$43.13

Hailed by La Scena Musicale as a rising star of 2022, Montréal-based pianist David Potvin is quickly establishing himself as one of Canada's most exciting pianists. As winner of the 2022 Eckhardt-Gramatté competition, he went on a recital tour across Canada in the fall of 2022. David is a versatile performer with an interest in a wide range of repertoire. His imaginative programs seamlessly combine standard repertoire and contemporary music, with a focus on Canadian repertoire. Recent concert highlights include American premieres of Canadian music performed at the University of Arkansas; a recital with violinist Martin Beaver; a recital in collaboration with the Canadian Music Centre celebrating the works of Quebec composer Jacques Hétu; and two recitals of Beethoven piano sonatas as part of the Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance's Beethoven 250 celebration.







Dave Gunning



JP Cormier



Conductor — Martin MacDonald

Symphony Nova Scotia with special guests Dave Gunning & JP Cormier Saturday, September 21 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$45 + fees & taxes = \$58.08

Member & Student Pricing: \$43 + fees & taxes = \$55.78

Join Symphony Nova Scotia for an unforgettable evening featuring celebrated folk musicians Dave Gunning and JP Cormier. Conducted by Martin MacDonald, the orchestra will blend classical and folk traditions seamlessly.

About Dave Gunning and JP Cormier | Dave Gunning, celebrated for his storytelling and engaging performances, and JP Cormier, a virtuosic multi-instrumentalist with deep bluegrass and folk roots, promise an evening of compelling and memorable music.

About Symphony Nova Scotia | Nova Scotia's premier orchestra reaches over 50,000 people annually with innovative concerts and educational programs, performing a wide range of genres and fostering community engagement across the province.

About Martin MacDonald | Award-winning Canadian conductor Martin MacDonald is renowned for his dynamic presence and extensive contributions to Symphony Nova Scotia and orchestras across Canada.



SMALL OF MY HEART





SONGWRITERS CIRCLE

IT'S NOT JUST A CONCERT. IT'S A MOVEMENT.

Monday, September 23 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$35 + fees & taxes = \$46.58

Member & Student Pricing: \$32 + fees & taxes = \$43.13

Featuring Lisa MacIssac, Cassie & Maggie MacDonald, and Sally Taylor

Experience the magic of "SMALL OF MY HEART" Songwriters Circle, featuring Lisa MacIsaac, a Cape Breton-born multiinstrumentalist of the acclaimed duo Madison Violet, known for their captivating harmonies and heartfelt lyrics.

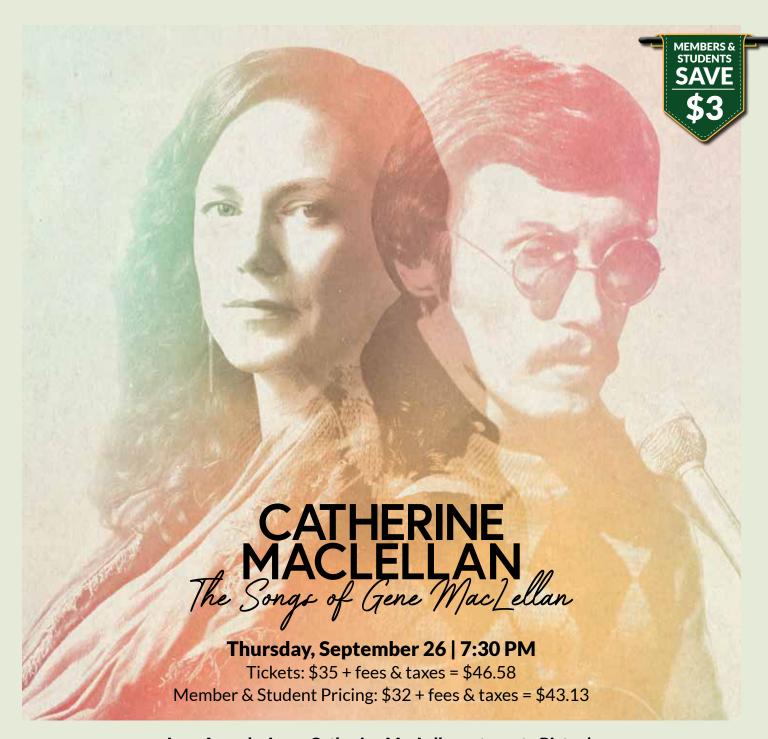






Joining her is Nova Scotian sisters Cassie & Maggie MacDonald who have been lighting up the world with their unique blend of Celtic instrumentals and vocals. They enchant audiences with lively fiddle, piano and guitar arrangements, and vocal harmonies in both English and Gaelic, all complemented by their intricate and percussive step dancing style.

Sally Taylor, daughter of James Taylor and Carly Simon, is an American singer, songwriter, artist, musician, writer, painter, knitter, and educator. She has released three studio albums, with songs featured in films like "Anywhere But Here" and "Me, Myself & Irene." Taylor has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Martha Stewart Show, and The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. In 2012, she founded Consenses, a global non-profit that unites artists across mediums to interpret each other's work, creating an artistic game of "Telephone".



Juno Award winner Catherine MacLellan returns to Pictou's deCoste Performing Arts Centre with "The Songs of Gene MacLellan". This show, part concert and part memoir, is both moving and uplifting.

Gene MacLellan rose to fame in 1970 with "Snowbird" and in 1971 with "Put Your Hand in the Hand," songs that were made famous by artists like Anne Murray and Ocean, and later covered by Elvis, Joan Baez, Bing Crosby, and Loretta Lynn. Gene died tragically in 1995, when Catherine was a teenager. Since then, she has sought to understand her father, a man known by many but truly known by few.

This show follows her 2017 show and album "If It's Alright With You" and aims to shed light on Gene's life, discuss mental illness, and celebrate his musical legacy. With a range of songs from country to pop to gospel, and backed by an incredible band, this is a must-see performance this fall.









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Tune in weekly to **Sounds Atlantic** for the 'deCoste de-Briefs'

featuring upcoming events at the deCoste Performing Arts Centre in Pictou, NS. Sunday evenings

8 PM - 10 PM on 989 XFM

For Advertising Information on 989 XFM Radio, Antigonish contact: Glenn Baker - Sales Representative C 902-759-3244 | B 902 863 4580 | TF 1-800-350-2539 glenn@989xfm.ca | www.989xfm.ca

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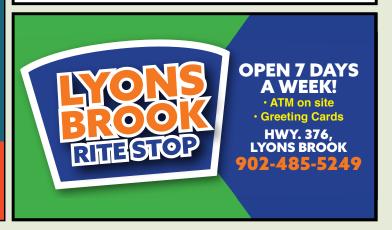
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Advocate

The Advocate Group and Murray Family wish to congratulate the deCoste Culture Hub team and partners on this historic reopening. This unique facility helps to position Pictou County as an even greater place to live and work. We are proud to support this bold vision.

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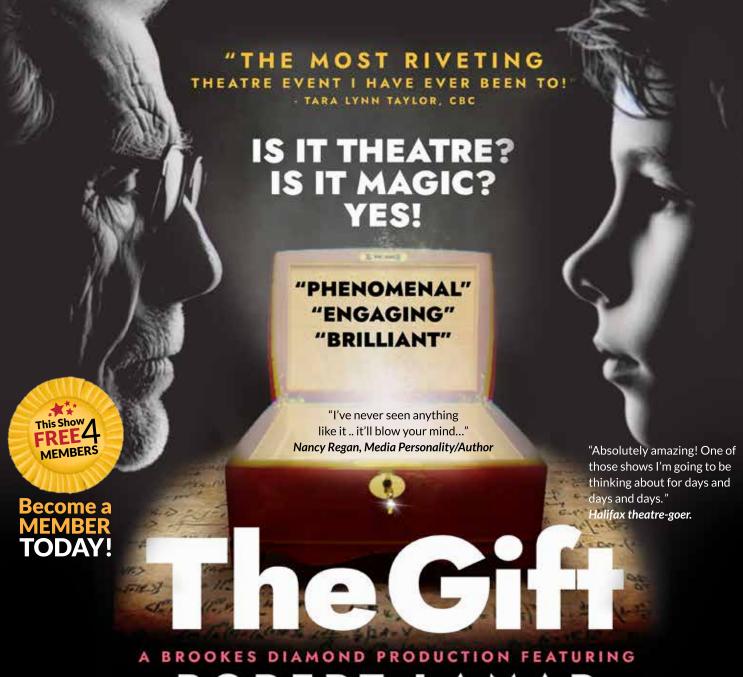
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ROBERT LAMAR

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY RON ULRICH

Saturday, October 5 | 7:30 PM | Tickets: \$30 + fees & taxes = \$40.83

"The Gift" is an extraordinary theatrical experience challenging the concepts of chance and destiny. Produced by Brookes Diamond Productions and written by Ron Ulrich, it's a one-act play where audience interaction is pivotal. Led by the sole performer, Robert Lamar, the show delves into family dynamics with surprising twists, leaving spectators in awe. Running for approximately 90 minutes, this mysterious production is suitable for ages 14 and up. Lamar, a seasoned Canadian theatre veteran, has been mesmerizing audiences with stage hypnotism since 1993, performing for major clients like Coke and Xerox Canada. He's graced numerous prestigious theatres and consulted on Neptune Theatre productions. Lamar's expertise extends to TV and radio appearances, adding depth to his theatrical prowess. "The Gift" defies description—it must be experienced firsthand. experiencethegift.ca



Monday, October 7 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$38 + fees & taxes = \$50.03 | Member & Student Pricing: \$35 + fees & taxes = \$46.58

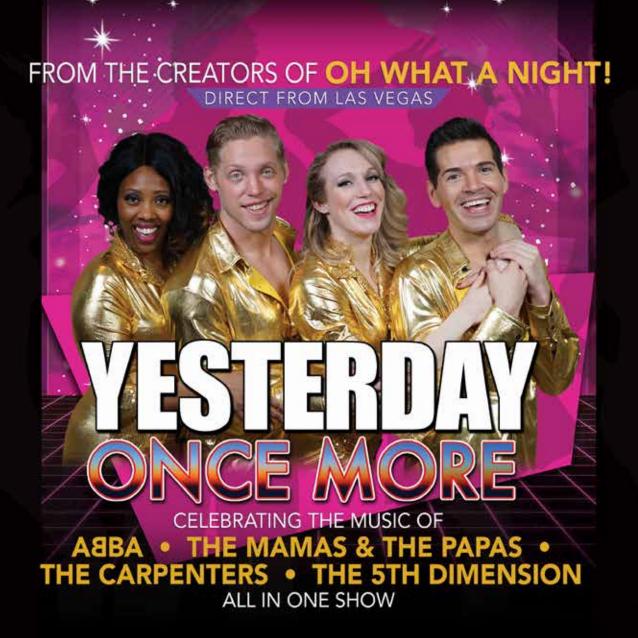
This two-hour inspired performance includes hits like "Early Morning Rain," "If You Could Read My Mind," "Carefree Highway," "Sundown," "For Lovin' Me," "Canadian Railroad Trilogy," "Ribbon of Darkness," and "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald", just to name a few.

Lightfoot recorded 20 albums, has five Grammy nominations, 17 Juno Awards, and earned 16 number ones, 18 top 10s and 21 top 40 hits. Other great artists who have recorded his songs include Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash, Eric Clapton, Hank Williams Jr., Judy Collins, Barbra Streisand, Peter, Paul & Mary, Glen Campbell, and Toby Keith.

In 2012, Lightfoot's legacy was further enhanced when he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and decorated with the Governor General's Award and the Companion to the Order of Canada Honour of Merit. Gordon Lightfoot is a national treasure and was a legend in his own lifetime.

"What makes this performance special is the connection these musicians have to the music, and to their audience," says Way. "They love the music and perform these tunes from the heart. Audiences naturally respond with standing ovations and the best part is hearing the audience sing along to every song."

Take a trip down memory lane, and through Canadian musical history, and join Leisa Way and The Wayward Wind Band for this magnificent night of greatest hits from Canada's favourite troubadour.



Tuesday, October 15 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$55 + taxes & fees = \$69.58



Dig way back into the closet for your best 70's outfit! **Prizes for the Best-Dressed!**

From the creators of "Oh What A Night!", and "Four By Four", direct from Las Vegas to Ottawa comes an electrifying new show – a unique musical revue celebrating the music of ABBA, The Carpenters, The 5th Dimension, and The Mamas & Papas.

The dynamic stars of "Yesterday Once More" expertly sing and dance their way through the hit songs of these pop icons in fully choreographed musical production numbers.

You'll enjoy non-stop hits such as The Carpenters' "Close to You", The Mamas & The Papas' "California Dreaming", The 5th Dimension's "Up, Up and Away" and ABBA's "Dancing Queen"...all tied together with informative and humorous banter.

The cast members of the show are four dynamic performers whose lush harmonic interpretations are featured as both ensemble and individually. For anyone who simply loves great music and amazing vocal blends this is a show not to be missed.

This world premiere MEMBERS & production is supported by Veterans Affairs Canada.

"Increasing the number of touring theatre productions we bring to the deCoste is a priority. This amazing show is a great start."

Troy Greencorn

Theatre New Brunswick Presents:

Bluebirds

Wednesday, October 16 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$25 + fees & taxes = \$35.08 | Member & Student Pricing: \$22 + fees & taxes = \$31.63

Bluebirds is set in Étaples, France, 1918. Nurses Christy, Maggie, and Bab have crossed oceans to care for wounded Canadian soldiers in the Great War. Despite the terrible injuries they must deal with, they manage to stay hopeful as the dangers of the front draw closer to their hospital. Through it all, the three women find friendship, independence, power, and influence in a place where men, once again, are trying to destroy the world.

Bluebirds Written by Vern Thiessen | Directed by Natasha MacLellan | Featuring Kirsten Alter, Mélanie LeBlanc and Sharisse LeBrun Costume Designer - Sherry Kinnear | Projection Designer - Christian Ludwig Hansen | Sound Designer - Stewart Legere Lighting Designer - Chris Saad | Set Designer - Andrea Evans | Stage Manager - Teagan Keith | Choreographer - Sarah Power

Bluebirds was published by Playwrights Canada Press in 2022.



James Keelaghan, a celebrated contemporary folk singer, is renowned for his aptitude for storytelling, drawing comparisons to legends like Eric Bogle and Stan Rogers. Praised by Eric Bibb and Rolling Stone critic Dave Marsh as "Canada's finest songwriter," Keelaghan's career spans nearly four decades and includes ten solo albums featuring timeless tracks like "Jenny Bryce." His originals, such as "Small Rebellions" and "Cold Missouri Waters," capture historical events and personal struggles, often mirroring traditional folk songs. Collaborations with musicians like Oliver Schroer and Oscar Lopez have enriched his music, captivating global audiences. Influenced by his Irish father and artists like The Clancy Brothers, Keelaghan's passion for history and folk music shines through his work. Co-writing with notable folk figures like Karrine Polwart and David Francey, he has cemented his place as a distinctive and enduring figure in folk music.



In 2012, bassist Darryell Stone, a fan of Tom Petty, realized that everyone he asked shared his admiration for Petty. Inspired, he and Jonathan Guthrie, a guitarist and Petty lookalike, decided to form a Tom Petty tribute band. They recruited skilled musicians, including drummer Steve Lucas, his bandmate Glenn Freeman, and lead guitarist Curt Granger. The band, named The Wildflowers, focused on meticulously recreating Tom Petty's music with great attention to detail.

Initially performing locally, their reputation quickly grew, leading to shows across the southeast. Over 100 performances later, The Wildflowers have become one of the most popular tribute acts in the region, celebrated for their faithful renditions of Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers' music. With their deep passion and extensive experience, The Wildflowers continue to bring joy to Tom Petty fans everywhere.



Payadora



Wednesday, October 23 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$35 + fees & taxes = \$46.58

Member & Student Pricing: \$32 + fees & taxes = \$43.13

Payadora is an award-winning ensemble celebrated for its unique arrangements of Argentinian and Uruguayan tangos, milongas, waltzes, and folk music, as well as original compositions. Combining their classical, jazz, and world music backgrounds, the group creates innovative and passionate performances. Endorsed by the Argentinian Consulate in Toronto, they have captivated audiences at major venues and festivals since 2013, including the National Arts Centre and Toronto Jazzfest. Their third album, *Silent Tears: The Last Yiddish Tango*, topped the World Music Charts in Europe and received global acclaim. In 2023, Payadora won "Best New Piece" at the Yiddish Music Awards in São Paolo. They continue to receive support from arts councils and plan to tour internationally and release their fourth album in 2024.

Rebekah Wolkstein violin/vocals | **Drew Jurecka** bandoneon/violin/vocals **Joseph Phillips** bass | **Clark Schaufele** piano

"You would be hard-pressed to find another Canadian ensemble with more collective depth of influence over Canada's musical landscape than Lunch At Allen's." — **The Beat Magazine**



Featuring Ian Thomas, Cindy Church, Marc Jordan, and Murray McLauchlan

Friday, October 25 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$74.18 (taxes included) + fees = \$79.68

As the saying goes, 'all good things must come to an end' - and so it is with Lunch At Allen's, who will embark on a country-wide FAREWELL TOUR beginning in Atlantic Canada this October. Coming together in 2004, for what was meant to be a one-off eight-date tour presented as a songwriters circle, the four renowned artists discovered a soul-warming 'joie de vivre' in performing together ... and so began 20 years of camaraderie touring the country coast to coast.

Lunch At Allen's is a musical powerhouse comprising four remarkable Canadian talents: Murray McLauchlan, Cindy Church, Marc Jordan, and Ian Thomas. As individuals, they have written for or sung on over 25,000,000 albums, penning hits for Josh Groban, Chicago, Bonnie Raitt, America, Santana, Cher, and Rod Stewart, as well as Murray's "Farmer's Song", Marc's "Marina Del Rey" and Ian's "Painted Ladies", just to name a few. These three artists have come together adding the incredible voice of Cindy Church (Quartette, Great Western Orchestra) to form Lunch At Allen's. Attending their stage show is to embark on an intimate musical journey replete with laughter and personal anecdotes, familiar favourites and new material, fashioning an unforgettable evening's entertainment - from their hearts... to your soul.



Nashville's Crys Matthews is being hailed as "the next Woody Guthrie" for her powerful social justice music. A talented lyricist, Matthews uses her songs to reflect her diverse experiences, earning praise for bridging divides. Her new album, *Changemakers*, aims to join the ranks of social-justice icons like Sweet Honey in the Rock and Holly Near. ASCAP's Eric Philbrook commends her for uplifting spirits with heartfelt, socially conscious music.

Matthews began performing in 2010 and gained significant acclaim in 2017, winning the New Song Music and Performance Competition at Lincoln Center and releasing two projects: The Imagineers and Battle Hymn for an Army of Lovers. She won the People's Music Network's Social Justice Songs contest and performed at major festivals like Sundance and Kerrville Folk Festival.

In her TED Talk, "Sing, Don't Shout — An Alternative Approach," Matthews discusses her upbringing in North Carolina and her transformation from a classically trained clarinetist to a folk singer. Emphasizing hope and activism, her album *Changemakers* addresses topics like immigration, the opioid crisis, Black Lives Matter, and gun safety, aiming to document the events of recent years and inspire listeners. Matthews' music resonates deeply, reminding us of its power to heal and unite.



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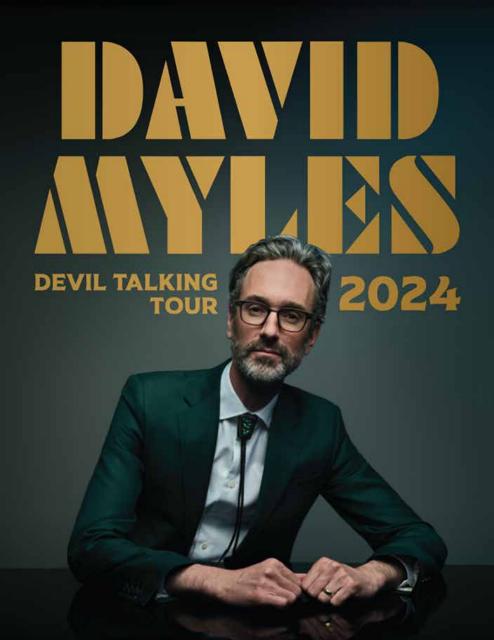
HOURS:

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Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday: 12 noon to 5 pm





Friday, November 8 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$39 + fees & taxes = \$51.18

David Myles, a celebrated entertainer with two JUNO awards, is known for his dynamic song writing and profound insights into the human condition. Born in New Brunswick, Myles is a versatile artist with over 15 albums spanning genres like folk, rock, blues, jazz, funk, Americana, and R&B in both English and French. His live performances, whether solo or with a band, are noted for their tight music and relaxed vibe, captivating audiences in both intimate and grand venues. Myles' work consistently explores themes of connection and collaboration, highlighted in his podcast and video series 'Myles From Home'.

His latest album, *Devil Talking*, showcases his diverse musical talents and addresses themes of partying, mistakes, and redemption. This album follows a period of creative growth, marked by his JUNO-winning album *That Tall Distance* and *It's Only a Little Loneliness*. Myles' achievements include numerous awards, a significant presence in the U.S., and co-writing the best-selling Canadian rap single "Inner Ninja." He also engages in various projects like his children's book and the concert series 'Singing For Supper', benefitting local food banks.



Sunday, November 10 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$35 + fees & taxes = \$46.58

Member & Student Pricing: \$32 + fees & taxes = \$43.13

Performance location: The River Gallery on Water St., 49 Water St., Pictou (LIMITED SEATING)

Obsidiana Duo has a reputation as an international prize-winning collaborative pair, having been featured at CollabFest 2020, Collabaret 2020 and 2021 as part of the International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society. Most recently, they won first prize in the 2022 Puerto Rico Collaborative Piano Competition, and a fellowship in the Toronto Art Song Festival 2022. They are currently part of Prairie Debut's roster of touring ensembles.

Brazilian-born mezzo-soprano Camila Montefusco, praised for her "lush steady tone," has been a young artist with the Britten Pears Young Artist Program and the Toronto Summer Music Festival. She co-founded Obsidiana Duo to promote Ibero-American musical culture and BIPOC composers.

A native of Mexico, Yolanda Tapia is an award-winning pianist recognized for her international performances. A former Fulbright scholar with a Doctor of Musical Arts, she co-founded Obsidiana Duo and won the 2022 Puerto Rico Collaborative Piano Competition. She created www.collaborative pianists.info to promote diversity in the field. Yolanda teaches master classes globally and is a resident performer with Holland America's Lincoln Center Stage piano quartet, travelling worldwide.





Tuesday, November 19 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$28 + fees & taxes = \$38.53 | Member & Student Pricing: \$25 + fees & taxes = \$35.08

Harry Manx has been dubbed an "essential link" between the music of East and West, creating musical short stories that wed the tradition of the blues with the depth of classical Indian ragas. His unique sound is bewitching and deliciously addictive to listen to.

Born on the Isle of Man, Manx spent his childhood in Canada and left in his teens to live in Europe, Japan, India, and Brazil. He honed his hypnotic live show on street corners, in cafes, bars, and at festivals. But it was Indian music that captured his attention and in the mid 80s he began a five-year tutelage with Rajasthani Indian musician Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Grammy winner with Ry Cooder). We are so pleased to welcome Harry back to the deCoste. He truly is a Canadian treasure.



Friday, November 22 | 7:30 PM

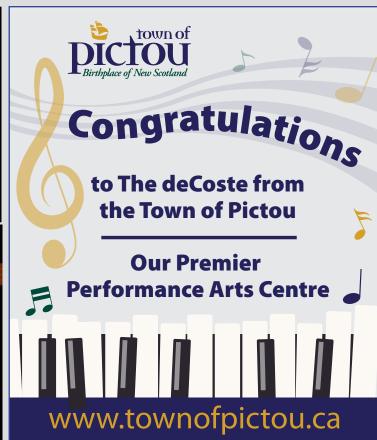
Tickets: $$35 + \text{fees } \& \text{ taxes} = $46.58 \mid \text{Member } \& \text{Student Pricing: } $32 + \text{fees } \& \text{ taxes} = 43.13

Fortunate Ones is a contemporary folk duo from Newfoundland. Celebrated for their harmony-entwined songs of hope, resilience, and the human condition along with their joyfully disarming live shows, they have toured relentlessly, bringing their open-hearted performances to thousands of people across North America and beyond. Catherine and Andrew have been busy since the release of their debut album *The Bliss* in 2015 - thousands of miles, hundreds of shows, award winning albums, and scores of fans have all been hallmarks of the success the duo has experienced since their humble beginnings in St. John's. With a Juno Award nomination and over 16 million streams of their sophomore album, Fortunate Ones released *That Was You and Me* in 2022 garnering another Juno nomination and an ECMA for Folk Recording of the Year.

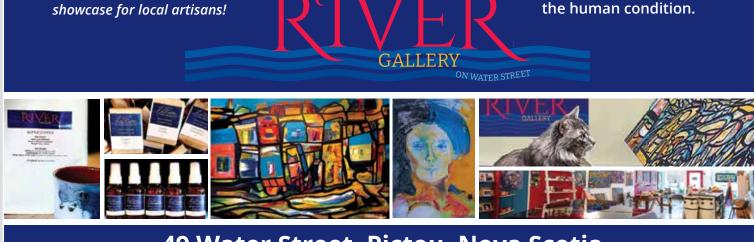




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Tuesday, December 3 & Wednesday, December 4 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$43 + fees & taxes = \$55.78

Christmas in Cape Breton debuted last year to roaring audience appreciation and not a seat to be had over their 2-week Nova Scotia tour. Bette MacDonald (Mr. D) and Maynard Morrison joined up with Juno-nominated Celtic stars and Beolach members – Mac Morin and Wendy MacIsaac along with long-time cast member, Jordan Musycsyn, to celebrate the season with lots of laughs and luscious tunes.

And this year, they're at it again with a brand new show that is sure to delight. The five versatile performers offer an unforgettable evening of laughter and top-quality musicianship. Beloved characters Mary Morrison, Beulah Claxton, Martin MacKinnon, Wayne Tomko, and their Island friends will be decking the halls, with all performers showing off their musical and comedic chops. (And they have that in abundance!)

Audiences should be warned that uncontrollable laughter may cause painful "side" effects!



Friday, December, 13, 2024 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$35 + fees & taxes = \$46.58 | Member & Student Pricing: \$32 + fees & taxes = \$43.13

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.

Sing-along & get into the spirit of the Holiday Season!



Monday, December 23 | 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$50.50 + fees & taxes = \$64.40

One of the most beloved concerts of the winter season, the Barra MacNeils *An East Coast Christmas* features a highly entertaining mix of traditional seasonal fare along with entertaining stories and dance, stamped with their lush harmonies and brilliant instrumental stylings. Their unique show is crafted to bring a Celtic spin to traditional favourites and their own original musical treasures.

Hailing from Sydney Mines, Cape Breton Island, the five versatile siblings are deeply rooted in Celtic music, culture, dance, language and history. Their numerous critically acclaimed recordings have included their own original songs as well as tried and true standards, both instrumental and vocal.

The Barras long career has taken their music across the globe and their coast-to-coast Christmas tour has been selling out for over two decades.

The Barra MacNeils live concert experience is family entertainment at its highest level, leaving magical memories that will last beyond the season and bringing back audiences time and again.



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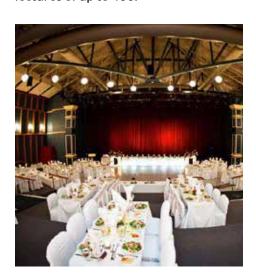
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3-night stay in Toronto, ON
4-night stay in Glasgow, SCO

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