



IDL 2023 Artist Bios

Artistic Director

Daniel Roy

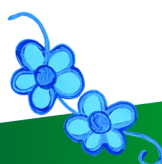
Multi-instrumentalist, composer and award-winning singer-songwriter Daniel Roy has been contributing to Manitoba's artistic community for over two decades. His skill and versatility allow him to work across all genres of music, and have made him the first choice for many artists and productions alike. He divides his time between performing, artistic direction, album production, hosting, and sound design for theatre and television.

Hosts

Jessica Matten

Born in Edmonton, Alta., Jessica Matten is an actress and producer of Cree and Red River Métis descent. She is the president of 7 Forward Entertainment, an Indigenous-owned production company based in Western Canada. She is also one of the founding members of the first and only Indigenous Film Academy in North America, is the creator of the Indigenous wellness magazine *Active Cree*, and is a guest speaker across North America, Asia and Europe who spreads awareness about Indigenous issues.

Jessica's screen credits include *Tribal* (for which she also served as associate producer), *Frontier*, *Dark Winds* and the upcoming film *Rez Ball*, executive produced by LeBron James. Over the past 20 years, Jessica has facilitated countless workshops for Indigenous youth and worked extensively with Indigenous communities in the areas of employment, mentorship, suicide prevention, addictions, mental health, fitness and wellness. Her work in the film and TV industry is directly influenced by her dedication to Indigenous communities across Turtle Island and beyond.





Samian

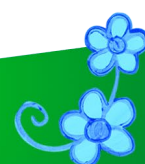
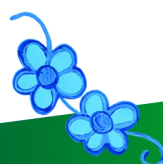
Samian is a rapper from Pikogan, Que., who proudly performs in both French and Anishinaabemowin. He has performed in shows across Canada and in more than 10 countries around the world. Discovered in 2004 through Wapikoni Mobile, Samian has since released five albums, one of which, *Face à la musique* (2011), won the Félix Award for hip-hop album of the year at the ADISQ Gala. In 2014, Samian participated in the APTN show *Le Rythme*, during which he mentored several young Indigenous musicians, singers, writers and performers to help them record their first album as a group. After several years of experience across many different domains, Samian launched his own record label in 2021 called Nikamo Musik. His latest album, also titled *Nikamo* (meaning “sing” in Algonquin) was released the same year. Samian was nominated for Indigenous Artist of the Year at the 2022 Félix Awards.

Performers

Aysanabee

Aysanabee is a multi-instrumentalist, producer and singer-songwriter based in Toronto. He is Oji-Cree, from the Sucker Clan of the Sandy Lake First Nation in northwestern Ontario. Aysanabee’s music is solemn and soaring, backed by a swirling blend of indie, soul and electronic soundscapes, mournful saxophone, and pulse-quickening fingerpicking. His 2022 debut album, *Watin* (Ishkode Records), is named after his grandfather and includes 10 tracks and nine interludes featuring his grandfather’s voice. It deftly blends music, journalism and artistic expression.

Aysanabee released three singles over the course of 2022, including “Ego Death” and “Nomads,” which charted on Billboard Canada and became #1 on CBC Music. The song “We Were Here” charted on the Indigenous Music Countdown and was featured in an episode of *Station 19*. Aysanabee has performed at venues and festivals across the country, including Ottawa Bluesfest, Montreal Jazz Festival, Mission Folk Music Festival and many more. He has also shared the stage with such notable acts as The National, Digging Roots, Jeremy Dutcher and Half Moon Run, among others.





Barney Morin

Originally from Otterburne, Man., Barney Morin is a bilingual comedian currently based in Winnipeg. As the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator for Festival du Voyageur, he helps create an immersive experience for attendees that celebrates Indigenous stories, languages and cultures. Barney has written five plays, including a historical Métis tour of the St-Pierre-Jolys Museum and a theatrical retelling of “The Life of Louis Riel.” This summer, Barney will be performing his third one-man show, “Another Serious Night with Barney Morin.” Catch him doing stand-up and sketch comedy around Winnipeg in French and English.

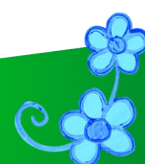
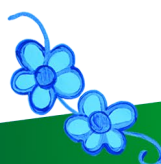
Bobbi Rose Koe

Bobbi Rose Koe doesn’t call herself an environmental activist but a “speaker on behalf of the land.” Raised by grandparents who instilled in her a fervor for protecting the Gwich’in country in which she was born, her community’s stories, values and traditions are what continue to guide her every day. Bobbi Rose has spoken in environmental court cases, but where she feels the most comfortable and effective as a land protector is out on the Yukon River, passing on old stories and traditional knowledge to locals and tourists from around the world. She believes that spreading the joy, power and purity of the land to as many people as possible is one of the best ways to ensure its protection. In return, she says, the land offers the ultimate protection and care to the local youth who get the chance to connect with it.

Digging Roots

Digging Roots breathes life into songs from Turtle Island to raise voices in solidarity with a global chorus of Indigenous artists, activists and changemakers. For over a decade, this two-time Juno Award-winning band has travelled the world with a joyful message of resistance, celebrating Anishinaabe and Onkwehón:we traditions of round dance and interconnectedness.

Led by husband-and-wife duo ShoShona Kish and Raven Kanatakta, the six-piece band creates a powerful fusion of blues, soul and rock n’ roll. Their fourth album, *Zhawenim* (2022), highlights ShoShona’s earthy vocals and Raven’s exhilarating guitar mastery, taking listeners on a journey through tall grass, sweet waters and unconditional love. More than a band, Digging Roots has taken its place at the





frontline of the fight for equity and representation in the arts, doing industry advocacy to empower arts communities worldwide.

DJ O Show

DJ O Show (also known as Orene Askew) is a DJ, emcee and inspirational speaker based in Vancouver, B.C. She is Afro-Indigenous and a proud member of the Squamish Nation who incorporates both of her cultural backgrounds into her work. She has travelled across the country to bring ambition and drive to all generations.

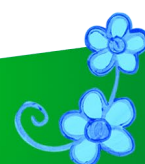
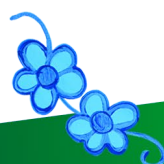
DJ O Show has also hosted or performed at numerous events, including the red carpet for Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week, the Scotiabank Bowl for Big Brothers Classic, Babes On Babes and more. She brings energy, professionalism and passion to all her performances. DJ O Show is the recipient of a 2015 B.C. Indigenous Business Award, a 2018 StandOUT Award from the Vancouver Pride Society and a 2021 Alumni of Excellence Award from Capilano University.

The Halluci Nation

The Halluci Nation, formerly known as A Tribe Called Red, is an electronic music group based in Ottawa, Ont. Composed of Bear Witness and Tim “Zoolman” Hill, The Halluci Nation blends a variety of dance and hip-hop styles with elements of First Nations powwow music, particularly vocal chanting and drumming. Their 2021 album, *One More Saturday Night*, is a love letter to the Electric Pow Wow gatherings that took place in Ottawa from 2007 until 2017. The record features Anishinaabe drum group Chippewa Travellers, Inuk singer Tanya Tagaq, and round dance/R&B singer Antoine, among many others. Through groundbreaking stage shows and ever-changing visuals, Bear Witness and Zoolman are working to create media that reflects today’s Indigenous identities.

KLMP (N’we Jinan Youth Quartet)

KLMP is a music group composed of four youths from Kahnawake Mohawk Nation and assembled through the N’we Jinan Mobile Production Studio, powered by inPath. They created their original song “They Fly” in hopes of demonstrating the struggle to find freedom, but also the way Indigenous youth are connecting with their culture and language to rise up and hold on for a better future. “They Fly” appears on the newly released N’we Jinan *Skyguiders Volume 9* music compilation, which celebrates the artistic achievements of 383 Indigenous youth singers,





performers and musicians from across Turtle Island. With 35 songs spanning three years, this album showcases the breadth and depth of Indigenous contemporary talent while weaving in traditional sounds and Indigenous languages.

Laura Niquay

Laura Niquay is an Atikamekw singer-songwriter from Wemotaci, Que. With her incomparable voice and songs in her Indigenous language, she has proven to be a quiet force who is forging a place for herself at the heart of the contemporary musical landscape in Quebec.

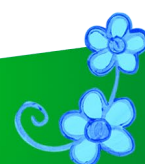
Laura won the 2021 TD Indigenous Songwriter Award from the SOCAN Foundation and the 2022 Félix Award for Indigenous Artist of the Year at the ADISQ Gala. Her album *Waska Matisiwin* also won the 2022 Félix Award for Indigenous Language Album of the Year and was longlisted for the 2021 Polaris Music Prize. Considered among the best albums of the year by CBC Music, Exclaim!, Journal Métro and La Presse, *Waska Matisiwin* offers listeners a glimpse into Laura's energized and emotional folk-grunge universe.

Miss Sandi Bay and The Rainbow Tornadoes

Miss Sandi Bay (AKA Ryan Richard) has been dancing their whole life and has danced alongside sisters Shaylene and Hannah Chartrand for many years in many different capacities. Hannah and Shaylene (known since 2020 as The Rainbow Tornadoes) started dancing at only three and six years old. After the COVID-19 pandemic brought the dance community to a halt, Miss Sandi Bay and The Rainbow Tornadoes began to meet for online practices, and they made their grand debut for World Pride Day on May 31, 2020. It was after this particularly windy performance that the name "The Rainbow Tornadoes" was born.

Morgan Toney

Morgan Toney is a Mi'kmaq fiddler and singer-songwriter from Nova Scotia. In just a short amount of time, Toney has invigorated both the Atlantic music communities and Mi'kmaq communities by combining the fiery fiddling of Cape Breton Island with the old songs of the Mi'kmaq, some dating back 500 years. He calls this fusion Mi'kmaltic (Mi'kmaq and Celtic) and it's his way of celebrating his language and heritage. Toney's 2022 debut album, *First Flight* (Ishkōdé Records), was nominated for three East Coast Music Awards and a Canadian Folk Music Award. The album





showcases his unique style, both in the way he transforms traditional songs and in the way he creates his own original pieces.

Mumu Fresh

Mumu Fresh (also known as Maimouna Youssef) is an award-winning singer, emcee, songwriter, activist, workshop facilitator and audio engineer. She is also a musical ambassador for the U.S. State Department, a former elected governor for the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Recording Academy and an ambassador for the Black Music Collective.

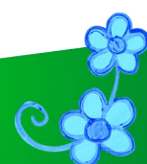
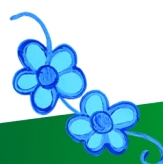
Mumu Fresh has toured across six continents, building strong relationships with her fans and sharing the stage and/or collaborating with the likes of The Roots, Anderson Paak, Bruno Mars, Ed Sheeran, Common, Raphael Saadiq and many others. She is committed to art activism and has performed within the U.S. prison system, for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, for the Inner-city Muslim Action Network and more, bringing awareness to important social issues.

In 2020, Mumu Fresh founded her own online music education platform called “Muniversity Studies” to teach aspiring artists how to reimagine the music business and thrive independently. Her music and philanthropic endeavors have been featured in publications such as *Variety*, *Ebony*, *Essence*, *Rolling Stone*, *Afro Punk* and more.

Silla

Silla is an Inuit throat singing duo composed of Charlotte Qamaniq and Cynthia Pitsiulak, hailing from Iglulik and Kimmirut Nunavut respectively. Having performed since 2005, Silla has crafted a rhythmic and hypnotising live performance that blends traditional and contemporary katajjaq across a wide range of genres. The duo has been nominated for two Juno Awards and has won two Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards.

The name Silla is derived from the Inuktitut word “Sila,” its definition encompassing concepts of weather, land, spirit, cunning, and intelligence. The name evokes the rich musical texture and nuance that throat singing creates, and acknowledges the powerful spirituality and traditions that have kept throat singing alive throughout colonialism.





The Wild Moccasin Dancers

The Wild Moccasin Dancers are an intertribal dance collective that live, work and play on the unceded Coast Salish territories. Dancing for The Wild Moccasin Dancers at IDL this year are David Whitebean (he/him) and Nyla Carpentier (she/her).

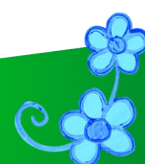
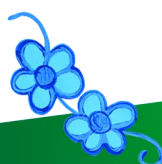
Originally from Montreal, David Whitebean (Mohawk and Bajan) has called the West Coast home for the past 31 years. He has over 19 years of experience dancing various powwow styles, with Men's Fancy being the main style he practices. David has participated in many events over the years, learning, teaching and dancing along the way. Being able to teach what he's learned and share the gift of dance is both a blessing and a point of pride for him.

Nyla Carpentier (Tahltan, Kaska, French and Scottish) is a multifaceted performing artist currently residing in North Vancouver, B.C. She has been powwow dancing since she was in tiny tots and has travelled across Turtle Island over the last 35 years to dance at various powwows and festivals. Nyla also teaches the different powwow styles to eager learners, sharing both the dance steps and the history of powwow dancing. In 2011, in partnership with Raven Spirit Dance Company, she started the popular Powwow Bootcamp class. Nyla is also an actor, writer and new mom.

Zoey Roy

Zoey Roy is a Nehiyaw, Dené and Métis activist, educator and spoken word artist. Her performances weave together storytelling, rap, theatre, and rhythm and blues to confront colonialism, explore how it impacts Indigenous people, and find pathways of healing. Zoey is dedicated to working with young people and brings her messages of anti-racism and healing into classrooms around the country. Through her doctoral studies, she is working towards creating a community-based learning program that is not dependent on the colonial system. She calls it "the HYPE Institute: Helping Young People Engage."

Zoey has written two books: the memoir *Homecoming* (2016) and the long poem *The Voyageurs: Forefathers of the Métis Nation* (2019). She has performed across Canada and around the world, including at the Regina and Calgary Folk Festivals, Canada 150 on Parliament Hill, BIGSOUND in Australia and more. Zoey has received many awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), the





Congress of Aboriginal Peoples National Youth Leadership Award (2013), the Indspire Award (2016), and the Saskatchewan Arts Award for Arts and Learning (2019).

