



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chan Centre and Musqueam to Host *ʔəmi ce:p xʷiwəl (Come Toward the Fire)*, a New Indigenous Festival Ahead of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

The two-day event features free and ticketed family-friendly programming across UBC's Arts & Culture District and culminates with Buffy Sainte-Marie

Vancouver, BC — **The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts** at the University of British Columbia, in collaboration with **Musqueam**, on whose unceded lands UBC is situated, are thrilled to announce the new, inaugural festival, ***ʔəmi ce:p xʷiwəl (Come Toward the Fire)***. Held on **September 17 – 18, 2022**, the festival will be an Indigenous-led celebration of creativity, brilliance, culture and community. The gathering will showcase the voices of Indigenous artists, performers, musicians, speakers, and dance groups from Musqueam and from Indigenous nations across Turtle Island (North America).

“This festival is a beautiful opportunity to showcase the joys of Indigeneity,” says Pat Carrabré, Director of the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts and member of the Manitoba Métis Federation. “So often, Indigenous depictions are mired in tragedy. While we recognize the history and continued oppression of Indigenous peoples, we wanted to expand the narrative. The story of Indigenous peoples is not monolithic, neither are our cultures. With the various creatives we have invited for this festival, we are highlighting the incredible diversity of Indigenous talent, whether it’s through food, dance, song, or otherwise. Of course, we are especially pleased to present this festival in collaboration with Musqueam.”

The weekend will begin with free, public activities on Saturday, September 17 from 1-6PM. Accessible outdoor programming will include music and dance performances, Indigenous vendors, food trucks, community presentations, film screenings, and cultural workshops. Hosted by Two-Spirit Cree musician and drag performer **Quanah Style**, daytime activities will also include a dedicated memory space to provide an opportunity for Indigenous community members to share a memory to remember loved ones.

The Museum of Anthropology at UBC will host Musqueam Teachings family workshops on September 17 and 18, 11AM-1:30PM. With hands-on activities, participants can learn Musqueam place names, look at history through Musqueam timelines, and interact with Musqueam belongings. This workshop is drawn from MOA’s popular teaching kit, developed in partnership with the Musqueam: *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm: qʷi:lqʷəlʷə ʔə kʷəθə snəwəyət ct / Musqueam: giving information about our teachings*.

The Belkin Art Gallery’s Outdoor Screen will showcase *Stories from Musqueam*, a short film and video series featuring the work and words of Musqueam artists, cultural knowledge keepers and community members.

On Saturday evening, a festival-style concert performance will be held inside the Chan Shun Concert Hall beginning at 7PM. Self-identifying Indigenous peoples can attend the concert for free. Ten artists and two dance groups from across the continent will perform, and the event will be hosted by Musqueam creator, actor, and playwright **Quelemia Sparrow**.

Performers for the evening concert will include JUNO-nominated and 2021 Canadian Folk Music Award Solo Artist of the Year winner **Julian Taylor** of Mohawk and West Indian heritage, Inuit experimental throat-singing

sister duo **PIQSIQ**, and **Indigenous Enterprise**, a multi-national U.S.-based dance troupe led by champion powwow dancers, who performed at the Presidential Inauguration of Joe Biden.

The concert will also feature Musqueam rapper and City of Vancouver's first local Indigenous Poet Laureate **Miss Christie Lee** performing with Squamish and Nisga'a musician, model, and actor **Lady Sinncere**, JUNO-nominated Haida pop and R&B singer **Carsen Gray**, Lil'wat composer and singer **Russell Wallace** leading a jazz ensemble for his Tillicum Shantie Project, Afro-Indigenous Two-Spirit DJ Orene Askew of the Squamish Nation, otherwise known as **DJ O Show**, brothers **Sekawnee and Sekoya Baker** of Squamish and Tla'amin heritage, Musqueam R&B singer **Noah Crawford** who will be making his debut performance, and Coast Salish three-generation family group of singers, drummers, and dancers, **Tsatsu Stalqayu**, also known as **Coastal Wolf Pack**.

In addition, *ṙəmi ce:p x^wiwəl* (*Come Toward the Fire*) will feature the premiere of a new musical composition co-created by master Musqueam weaver **Debra Sparrow** in partnership with Vancouver musician **Ruby Singh**, and an ensemble of Vancouver-based string musicians. The work will interweave musical elements drawn directly from Sparrow's *Reconciliation blanket* design and give musical form to a cross-cultural expression of Musqueam and non-Indigenous collaboration. More of Sparrow's blankets and weaving will be on display at the Chan Centre throughout the weekend.

The evening concert performance will be recorded and broadcast on CBC Music, CBC Radio One, and CBC Gem on September 30 for Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.

On Sunday, September 18, the festival will conclude with a concert by the legendary, Oscar-winning Cree artist and musician **Buffy Sainte-Marie**. Buffy Sainte-Marie has spent her life creating, innovating, and disrupting. Over five decades into an award-winning career, the prolific Cree singer-songwriter has been a musical trailblazer, an environmental activist, a tireless advocate for marginalized peoples, a prolific musician, an actor and a feminist icon. Discounted tickets for Indigenous peoples are available. The Museum of Anthropology and the Belkin Art Gallery will also repeat their free workshop and outdoor film screening offerings from the previous day.

The hən̓qəmin̓əm̓ name for this event was provided by Musqueam and elder Larry Grant with special thanks to Musqueam artist Miss Christie Lee Charles for suggesting the name "move toward the fire." This phrase supports a movement to return Indigenous voices to the forefront and bring them back to the centre, the fire, and the heart of the community, following generations of removal due to Residential Schools. Miss Christie Lee will also perform on Saturday Sept 17th.

The main image artwork for the festival was created by non-binary Musqueam (Vancouver)-based queer x^wməθk^wəy̓əm and Tsimshian artist Chase Gray.

Listing Information

Tickets go on sale at 12PM today.

Event:	ṙəmi ce:p x ^w iwəl (Come Toward the Fire)
Location:	Chan Centre for the Performing Arts University of British Columbia 6265 Crescent Road Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Date:	September 17 – 18, 2022
Ticket Office:	chan.tickets@ubc.ca or 604.822.2697
Price:	Various

Website: chancentre.com

About the Chan Centre for Performing Arts

Since 1997, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts has earned an international reputation for its striking design, stellar acoustics, and exceptional programming. Artists, critics, and patrons alike are unanimous in their praise of the facility, winning it a place among North America's top-rated performing arts spaces. Featuring three unique venues—the Chan Shun Concert Hall, the Telus Studio Theatre, and the Royal Bank Cinema—the Chan Centre is a vital part of UBC campus and community life where artistic and academic disciplines merge to inspire new perspectives on the world around us. Past performers and speakers include Wynton Marsalis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Renée Fleming, Dan Savage, Yo-Yo Ma, Jane Goodall, Herbie Hancock, Lila Downs, and Anoushka Shankar.

Link to artist photos

chancentre.com/press-downloads

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For further media information:

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