

Alberta Music Cities Convention Program

CALGARY ARTS DEVELOPMENT PRESENT: MGC 2026 OPENING RECEPTION

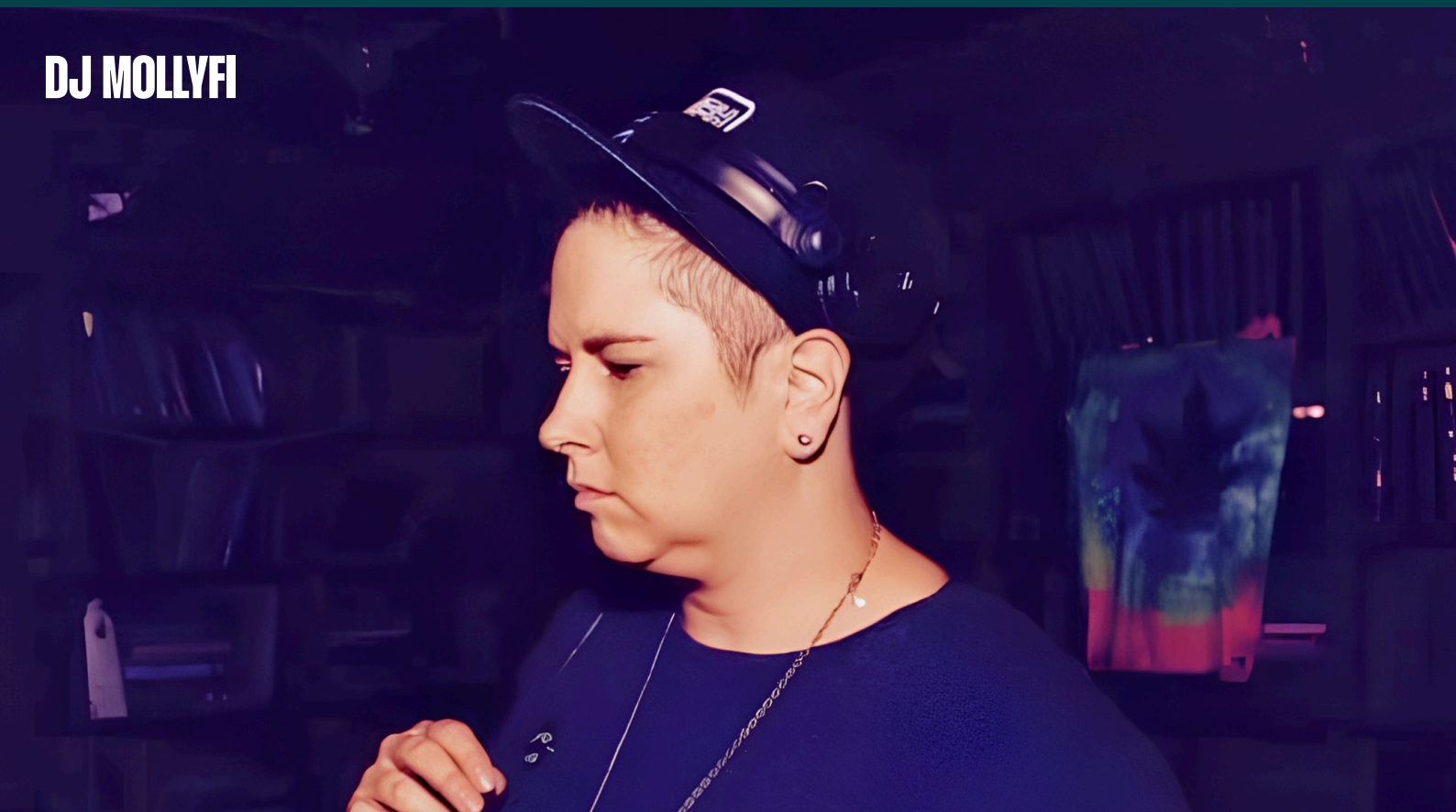
17:00 – 19:30 | Skybridge

Kick off Music Cities Convention Alberta 2026 with an evening of connection and conversation at the opening reception. Join fellow delegates, speakers, partners and members of Alberta's music community for refreshments, music and a chance to connect before the convention gets underway.

Hosted at the Skybridge at the National Music Centre, the reception is an opportunity to meet new faces, reconnect with colleagues and celebrate the people and organizations helping shape Alberta's music ecosystem, with music by DJ MollyFi setting the soundtrack for the evening.

All delegates welcome, no registration required!

DJ MOLLYFI



08:45 – 09:30 | Registration, coffee and pastries – Room: Where Music Lives (by the main customer service desk)

09:30 – 10:00

Treaty 7 Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer by Bryan Little Chief, Siksika Nation Elder, and welcome speeches by the host and political authorities

10:00 – 10:20 | Keynote

Indigenous Music Economies & Cultural Sovereignty Recognising National Day for Truth and Reconciliation presented by the Indigenous Music Office

- David McLeod, CEO Native Communications Inc. & NMC Indigenous Program Advisory Committee

10:20 – 11:10 | Panel

The Talent Pipeline: Investing in the Ecosystem Behind the Playlists presented by Women in Music Canada

- Moderator: Natasha Mandrusiak, Women in Music Canada
- Claire Rice, Executive Director, Arts Alliance Illinois
- Shannon Sutherland, VP Marketing, Communications & Events, Canadian Council for Indigenous Business
- Moira Demorest, Music Officer, Kingston, Ontario

11:10 – 11:35 | Fireside Chat

Small Venues, Big Impact: Protecting the Lifeblood of Local Music presented by NITECAP

- Brian Block, Board Treasurer, Nighttime Economy Culture & Policy Alliance (NITECAP)
- Raheem Manning, Senior Director-Nighttime Economy, City of Philadelphia

11:35 – 12:35 | Lunch

12:35 – 13:00 | Fireside Chat

Language, Land, and Legacy: Indigenous Stewardship in Music, presented by the Indigenous Music Office

- Jeremy Dutcher, Musician and Composer
- Brenton Thorvaldson, Program Manager, Indigenous Music Office

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Collective-thinking and Solutions Oriented Sessions

13:00 – 13:40 | Quickfire Presentations

- **What Makes a Music City? A Five Music Rights Perspective**
 - Jesse Boere, President, International Music Council
- **Music and Healthcare – How it can be a Tool to Unlock Investment in Music in Cities**
 - Joy Allen, Director, Music and Health Institute, Berklee College of Music
- **The Venue as a Public Good: Protecting Cultural Rights in the Independent Sector**
 - Steve Sleswick, Managing Director, The Tivoli Group
- **Embedding music in local strategy**
 - Chip Adams, Director, Texas Music Office

13:40 – 15:00 | Policy Roundtables

- **Community Engagement & Placemaking | Room: Skybridge**
 - David “Click” Cox, Music Consultant, CLK Creative Works
- **Funding/Investment | Room: Terrace Commons**
 - Corey Poole, Music Sector Development Coordinator, City of Mississauga
- **New Business Initiatives (Music Publishing, Songwriting) | Room: N&C**
 - Jinting Zhao, Founder, SHE-Q Audio
- **Resilience | Room: Soundscapes**
 - Brian Davy, General Manager, Music City San Francisco

15:00 – 15:45 | Closing Remarks & Networking Coffee

15:45 – 17:00 | Site Tour

Visit to the National Music Centre

Evening Program

Continue the evening across Calgary's Music Mile, a mile of live music venues, restaurants and bars running along 9th Avenue SE through East Village and Inglewood.

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9:00 – 10:00 | Registration, coffee and pastries – Room: Where Music Lives (by the main customer service desk)

10:00 – 10:05

Opening Remarks

10:05 – 10:35 | Fireside Chat

The Recording Academy's Global Vision: Music, Membership and Local Impact presented by The Recording Academy

- Shain Shapiro, Founder, Sound Diplomacy
- Ruby Marchand, Chief Awards & Global Industry Officer, The Recording Academy
- Todd Dupler, Chief Advocacy & Public Policy Officer, The Recording Academy

10:35 – 11:40 | Presentation and Panel Discussion

From Care to Careers: Scaling Impact Through Music Offices presented by Association of Music Offices

Presentations

- **Music Export Memphis: A Decade of Building Sustainable Careers**
 - Elizabeth Cawein, Founder and Executive Director, Music Export Memphis
- **StageCare: A Model for Supporting Creative Communities**
 - Byron Sanders, CEO, Arete Health
 - Kristina Kirkenaer-Hart, Director, Cultural Tourism, Dallas Music Office / AMO co-founder

Panel

- Moderator: Reid Wick, Director of Regional Advocacy & Member Engagement, The Recording Academy
- Elizabeth Cawein, Founder and Executive Director, Music Export Memphis
- Kristina Kirkenaer-Hart, Director, Cultural Tourism, Dallas Music Office / AMO co-founder
- Chip Adams, Director, Texas Music Office

11:40 – 12:05 | Fireside Chat

Creative Placemaking: Weaving Music into the Urban Fabric

- Juanita Hardy, Managing Principal, Tiger Management Consulting Group, LLC
- Cory Crossman, Director, London Music Office & Focal Point, UNESCO City of Music

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12:05 – 13:15 | Lunch

13:15 – 14:05 | Presentations

Music Tourism Focus Presentations: Building Destination Value Through Music presented by Hidden Gems of Music Tourism

- Andrea Dempster-Chung, Executive Director, Kingston Creative, Jamaica
- Daryl Raven, Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Music Festival / Qld Music Trails
- Jaye O'Donnell, Economic Development Director, Mesa Arizona
- Lynreshay Johnson, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of The Bahamas

14:05 – 14:45 | Panel

Music Policy in 2030: Sustainability

- Sergio Emilio Parra, Research and Program Manager, Canadian Live Music Association
- Görg Vella, Cultural Diplomacy and Partnerships Executive, Arts Council Malta
- Kerry Clarke, Artistic and Marketing Director, Calgary Folk Music Festival
- Moderator: Dr. Charlie Wall-Andrews, Executive Director, SOCAN Foundation

14:45 – 15:30 | Presentations

Music-Friendly Policies for a sustainable workforce presented by International Economic Development Council

- Nathan Walker, Director of Development, Duck Club Entertainment / Music Idaho
- DeMarcus Akeem Suggs, Director, City of Memphis Office of Creative & Cultural Economy
- Andrea Khoo, Deputy Director, Performing Arts (Music) National Arts Council Singapore
- Lisa Hresko, Chief Operating Officer, A2IM

15:30 – 15:50 | Fireside Chat

Engineering a Music City – The Huntsville Blueprint

- Matt Mandrella, Music Officer, City of Huntsville, AL
- Azucena Micó, Chief Strategy Officer, Sound Diplomacy

15:50 – 16:10 | Keynote

Alberta Music Action Plan

- Jennifer Venance, Alberta Music Commissioner, Government of Alberta – Arts, Culture and Status of Women

16:10 – 16:20 | Closing Remarks & Handover

16:20 – 17:00 | Networking Coffee

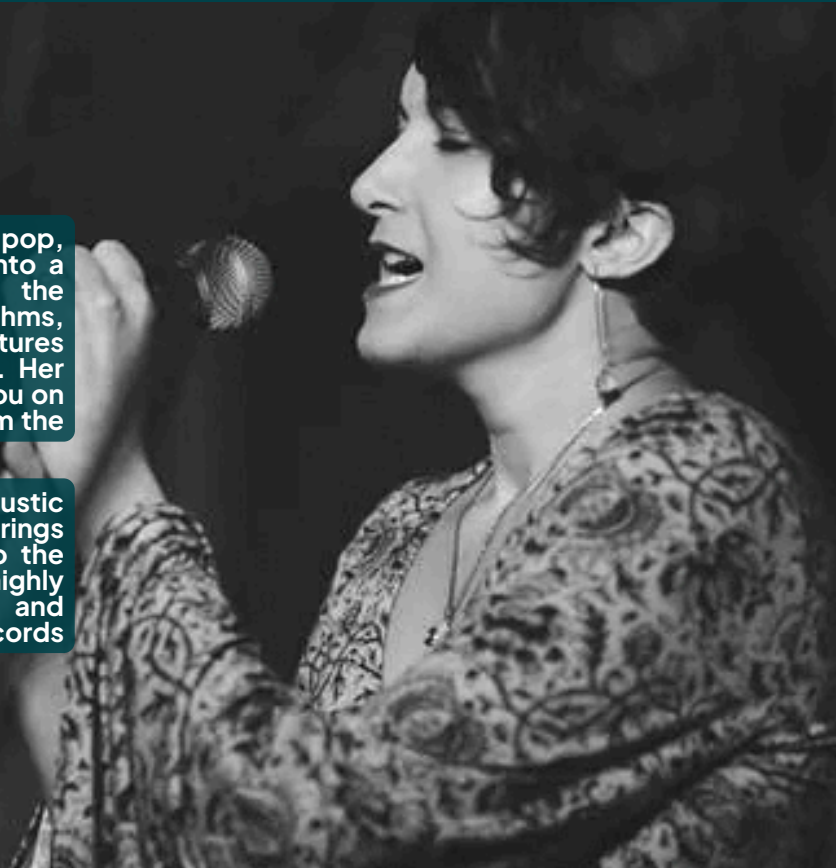
19:00 – 22:00 | Spruce Meadows Presents: Live Music at the King Eddy with an Open House of the CKUA radio Calgary Foundation Studio

As a proud media partner of Music Cities 2026, CKUA welcomes guests to join us at our Calgary Foundation Studio for an Open House during the closing reception. Hosts Lisa Wilton and Spencer Streichert will share how CKUA champions a connected and thriving music culture across Alberta and beyond, featuring live Music from Roya Camille Trio.

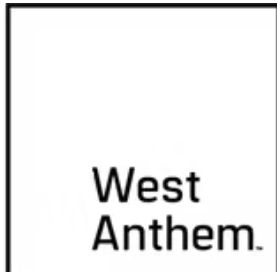
ROYA CAMILLE TRIO

Roya Camille is a songstress blending pop, jazz, and her middle eastern roots into a soulful expression of truth. Mixing the sounds of acoustic guitars, folk rhythms, and jazz infused melodies, Roya captures her audiences with her poetic heart. Her voice, both sweet and sultry, takes you on a journey under the midnight sun, from the arctic aurora to the prairie skies.

Whether performing solo, as an acoustic duo, or with her six-piece band, she brings a depth of musicality and energy to the stage. Stay tuned for Roya's highly anticipated debut album, *Breath and Being*, set to release on Bent River Records in 2026.



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