

Bella Coola Music Festival

A Community Success

Early in 1998, a group of dedicated volunteers with a common interest in music and community development came together to create the Central Coast's first outdoor arts festival. The Festival has come to be an annual highlight in the Valley and a welcome occasion for this isolated region so lacking in arts and cultural programs.



Photo courtesy Michael Wigle

Every year the Festival creates a venue for people of all walks of life to come together, relax and enjoy a diverse array of live performance arts. The Festival is a gathering place where the people of Bella Coola, neighbouring communities, and visitors from far and wide celebrate both our uniqueness and commonality. It is an opportunity to discover and share each other's history and culture.

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The Bella Coola Valley is an extremely isolated location - accessible by 450 km of rough road or through the steep ocean channels of the central coast, or by air directly from Vancouver. As a community, we face challenges in everything we try to do - whether it be due to our remoteness, our small population, or simple lack of the required funds.



Photo courtesy Michael Wigle

The Bella Coola Music Festival is an excellent example of community-building cross-cultural cooperation, and economic investment. With a part-time staff of one, the Festival relies heavily on community support, volunteerism, and local donations. Due to its consistent successes, local individuals and business owners are on-board, and it shows. With a dedicated Board of Directors, volunteer participation and community buy-in, the Festival is an excellent example of the kind of professional arts presentation that can be accomplished - even with the odds stacked against you.



Photo courtesy Michael Wigle

The Bella Coola Music Festival has headlined international stars such as Buffy St. Marie, 54-40, and Fred Penner, as well as established First Nations talent such as Derek Miller, Tanya Tagaq, and George Leach. Every year we strive to showcase up and coming Canadian artists and local talent as part of our programming. The Festival has been described as "nothing short of pure magic." Don't miss it!



Photo courtesy Michael Wigle



BELLA COOLA MUSIC FESTIVAL

A weekend of multi-cultural music and performing arts held in the beautiful and remote Bella Coola Valley in mid-July. Family-friendly, Children's Site Sunday, Local Food Vendors & Artisans, Award-Winning Musicians & More.

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