



Luminato Festival Toronto

IT'S ART

June 7 - 18, 2023
Festival Guide



Land Acknowledgement

Luminato Festival Toronto acknowledges that the land we gather on is the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Chippewa and the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Wendat Confederacy, and many Indigenous peoples, both known and unknown. This territory is subject to Treaty 13 and the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant and is home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples from across Turtle Island. Luminato acknowledges our responsibilities to these territorial agreements and to peaceably share and care for the resources of this land while aspiring to embody the treaties through our actions, relationship-building, and our programs.

Welcome to Luminato

"This year, we explore art and ideas centred on the importance of home, and invite audiences to feel at home with us. We are presenting a gamut of dynamic, heartfelt stories infused with fabulous music, which we hope will bring joy, inspire conversation, and strengthen everyone's commitment to make the world a better place, together."








- Naomi Campbell, Artistic Director

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Accessibility Symbol Key

 Audio Description	 Open Captions	 Relaxed Performance
 ASL Interpreter	 Closed Captions	 Physical Space Access
 Low Vision	Venue Guides and Access Guides will be available online for all events	



Peter Herrndorf

October 27, 1940 - February 18, 2023

To Peter, with appreciation

Peter Herrndorf was a founding Board Director of Luminato in 2006 and became Chair in 2018. A little anecdote about Peter is that he signed off every letter by saying “with appreciation.” On April 25, 2023, our Board of Directors took time during their meeting to share heartfelt stories about Peter. Here, we share just a few, out of many, words of appreciation for our dear colleague and friend, Peter Herrndorf.

“He was the most polite person and he had this amazing natural curiosity. It didn’t matter who he was talking to – or what their background was – he was always curious. He was also an ally – one of the original allies.” - maxine bailey, Vice Chair

“He was a great Canadian - we don’t celebrate great Canadians enough and he was top of the list.” - Rupert Duchesne, C.M., Director

“I joined Luminato because I wanted another dance with Peter. I knew it was the last dance, and I wanted it to last forever.” - Celia Smith, CEO

“He was a friend, advisor, coach, cheerleader and sometimes a critic and I will miss him dearly.” - Jessica Litwin, Chief Development Officer



Photo of Naomi Campbell (left) and Celia Smith (right)
Photo by Cassandra Popescu

Luminato Festival Toronto returns this June, and we are very pleased to share it with you. It is the culmination of many years of planning, and pandemic-related re-planning. It includes works that have been in our sights for many years, alongside others that are fresh and new. This festival explores ideas of home and migration through stories from Toronto and abroad.

Our festival stretches across the Greater Toronto Area, with events in Brampton, Mississauga, Etobicoke, downtown Toronto, East York, and Scarborough. A lot of it is free, and accessible. Little Amal will make you laugh and cry, our music weekend will make you dance, and we hope our theatre, opera and dance experiences will move you. More than anything, we invite you to experience the festival just beyond your doorstep and hope it will spark conversations between friends and strangers.

We are so excited to bring Luminato 2023 to the city, on our fourth and final festival together. (Naomi is off to new adventures, and Celia is preparing to welcome a new Artistic Director). This festival is only possible through collaboration with myriad partners: nearly a thousand artists, over a hundred community organizations, nearly fifty corporate partners, and all levels of government. It is a true testament to the power of community collaboration, and we thank every person who believes in our vision to animate Toronto this and every June.

It has been an honour and a privilege for Luminato's small and passionate team to put this spectacular program together for you. Please tell your friends, open your heart, and dive into this experience with us.

Celia Smith
CEO / PDG, Luminato Festival Toronto

Luminato Festival Toronto revient en Juin et nous sommes très heureux de le partager avec vous. C'est l'aboutissement de nombreuses années de planification et de replanification à cause de la pandémie. Il comprend des œuvres qui sont dans notre ligne de mire depuis de nombreuses années, ainsi que d'autres qui sont fraîches et nouvelles. Ce festival explore les idées de foyer et de migration à travers des histoires culturelles de Toronto et de l'étranger.

Notre festival s'étend à travers la région du Grand Toronto, avec des événements à Brampton, Mississauga, Etobicoke, le centre-ville de Toronto, East York et Scarborough. Une grande partie est gratuite et accessible. Little Amal vous fera rire et pleurer, notre week-end de musique vous fera danser et nous espérons que nos expériences de théâtre, d'opéra et de danse vous émouvoiront. Plus que tout, nous vous invitons à découvrir le festival juste au-delà de votre porte et espérons qu'il suscitera des conversations entre amis et étrangers.

Nous sommes ravis d'amener Luminato 2023 dans la ville, lors de notre quatrième et dernier festival ensemble. (Naomi est partie pour de nouvelles aventures, et Celia s'apprête à accueillir une nouvelle Directrice Artistique). Ce festival n'est possible que grâce à la collaboration d'une myriade de partenaires : près d'un millier d'artistes, plus d'une centaine d'organismes communautaires, près d'une cinquantaine de partenaires corporatifs et tous les paliers de gouvernement. C'est un véritable témoignage de la puissance de la collaboration communautaire, et nous remercions chaque personne qui croit en notre vision d'animer Toronto en ce mois de Juin et à chaque mois de Juin.

Ce fut un honneur et un privilège pour la petite équipe passionnée de Luminato de mettre en place ce programme spectaculaire pour vous. S'il vous plaît, dites-le à vos amis, ouvrez votre cœur et plongez dans cette expérience avec nous.

Naomi Campbell
Artistic Director / Directrice artistique, Luminato Festival Toronto



LUMINATO FESTIVAL TORONTO

Welcome to the 2023 edition of Luminato Festival Toronto. Our Artistic Director Naomi Campbell has programmed a riveting line-up that will invite you to laugh and cry, to sing and dance and to see the world through fresh eyes.

2023 is a year of transition for Luminato. After 12 extraordinary years, including five as Artistic Director, this is Naomi's final year with the festival. She brought spectacular programs to millions in the city and adapted brilliantly to the challenges of the pandemic. Please join me in thanking Naomi and enjoying every minute of her final festival.

We will be welcoming a new Artistic Director this year and look forward to the exciting vision they will bring to the festival.

This year also marks the sad passing of our former Chair, Peter Herrndorf. An unparalleled creative force and tireless champion of the Arts, Peter was a founding director of Luminato in 2006 and became Chair in 2018. Peter left an enduring legacy through his leadership in Canadian arts and media, and was simply, a great Canadian.

Under the leadership of Luminato's dynamic CEO, Celia Smith, and hand in hand with our future Artistic Director, we will continue to strive to fulfill the dream of Festival founders David Pecaut and Tony Gaglione as stated by David Pecaut, "where the best artists in the world and the best artists in Canada fill the stage that is Toronto with new and wonderful creations."

Please join us in celebrating all that Toronto offers the world and all that the world brings to Toronto.

Bienvenue à l'édition 2023 de Luminato Festival Toronto. Notre Directrice Artistique Naomi Campbell a créé une programmation fascinante qui vous invitera à rire et à pleurer, à chanter et à danser et à voir le monde avec des yeux neufs.

2023 est une année de transition pour Luminato. Après 12 années extraordinaires, dont cinq en tant que directrice artistique, c'est la dernière année de Naomi avec le festival. Elle avait apporté des programmes spectaculaires à des millions de gens dans la ville, et s'est brillamment adaptée aux défis de la pandémie. Veuillez-vous nous joindre à remercier Naomi, et profiter de chaque minute de son dernier festival.

Nous accueillerons cette année un nouveau Directeur Artistique et attendons avec impatience la vision passionnante qu'ils apporteront au Festival.

Cette année marque également le triste décès de notre ancien Président, Peter Herrndorf. Force créative inégalée et champion infatigable des arts, Peter a été l'un des Directeurs Fondateurs de Luminato en 2006 et en est devenu le président en 2018. Peter a laissé un héritage durable grâce à son leadership dans les arts et les médias canadiens, et était tout simplement un grand Canadien. Sous la direction de la dynamique PDG de Luminato, Celia Smith, et ensemble avec notre future directrice artistique, nous continuerons de réaliser le rêve des Fondateurs du Festival, David Pecaut et Tony Gaglione, comme David Pecaut l'a déclaré: "où les meilleurs artistes du monde et les meilleurs artistes du Canada remplissent la scène qu'est Toronto avec des nouvelles et merveilleuses créations."

Joignez-vous pour célébrer tout ce que Toronto offre au monde et tout ce que le monde apporte à Toronto.

Douglas Knight C.M.
Chair/Président, Luminato Festival Toronto



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everybody attending Luminato Festival Toronto 2023.

This much-anticipated event is dedicated to showcasing the talent and creativity of performance, media and visual artists from across Canada and around the world.

I would like to commend the organizers for their commitment to bringing people and communities together through the arts. I am certain that this year's edition of the festival will entertain, inspire and engage audiences of all ages.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable experience.

Sincerely,

Chères amies,
Chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à toutes les personnes qui participent à l'édition 2023 du Festival Luminato de Toronto.

Cet événement très attendu met en valeur le talent et la créativité des artistes de la scène, des médias et des arts visuels du Canada et du monde entier.

Je tiens à féliciter le comité organisateur pour son engagement à rassembler les gens et les communautés par l'entremise des arts. Je suis convaincu que l'édition de cette année divertira, inspirera et mobilisera une audience de tous les âges.

Je vous souhaite une expérience des plus mémorables.

Cordialement,

**The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P./
Le très hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, C.P., député
Prime Minister of Canada/
Premier ministre du Canada**



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

Welcome to the 2023 edition of Luminato Festival Toronto!

Ontario and the Greater Toronto Area are proud to host one of the year's most anticipated cultural events, featuring ground-breaking performances and thought-provoking pieces by artists from around the world.

One of the many things that make Ontario great is our vibrant cultural and arts scene. Many talented artists make their home here, and our province draws internationally acclaimed performers. We are proud to welcome all the artists and audience members who will enjoy everything that the city has to offer during the festival.

As always, this event wouldn't be possible without the dedication of the hardworking team behind Luminato. Thank you for showing the world the true Ontario spirit.

Best wishes for another memorable festival.

Je souhaite la bienvenue à tous les participants et participantes au festival Luminato 2023 de Toronto!

L'Ontario et la région du Grand Toronto ont la chance d'accueillir l'un des événements culturels les plus attendus de l'année, qui propose des œuvres de réflexion et des spectacles révolutionnaires créés par des artistes du monde entier.

La vitalité de la scène culturelle et artistique de l'Ontario contribue à faire de cette province un endroit exceptionnel. De nombreux artistes talentueux ont élu domicile ici, et notre province attire des créateurs et des créatrices de renommée internationale. Notre gouvernement est fier d'accueillir tous les artistes et les membres du public qui profiteront de tout ce que la ville a à offrir pendant ce festival.

Comme toujours, cet événement ne pourrait avoir lieu sans le dévouement de l'équipe de Luminato, qui travaille sans relâche pour promouvoir au monde entier la richesse de la culture ontarienne.

Je vous souhaite un festival mémorable.

Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier ministre de l'Ontario



It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 17th edition of the Luminato Festival Toronto.

This year's festival will joyfully bring our city to life through theater, music, dance, opera, and so much more. It will engage diverse communities through memorable experiences and a celebration of creativity that demonstrates how culture is at the heart of our shared stories and experiences.

The arts are an incredible force for good in our city, contributing to individual and community growth, and promoting intercultural understanding, friendship and social cohesion. I am pleased that events like the Luminato Festival Toronto are taking place in our city.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.

Yours truly,

J'ai l'honneur d'offrir mes souhaits de bienvenue à toute personne qui assistera à la 17e édition du Festival Luminato de Toronto et de saluer sa présence.

Les activités organisées cette année, dont des pièces, des concerts, des spectacles de danse et des opéras, ranimeront le climat festif. Les diverses communautés torontoises revivront des expériences mémorables et célébreront leur créativité en montrant que la culture est au cœur de nos histoires et de nos expériences communes.

Les arts servent le bien commun de la ville avec force et vigueur, et contribuent ainsi à la croissance des citoyens et de l'ensemble de la société, tout en promouvant la compréhension, l'amitié et la cohésion sociale. Je suis ravie que des événements comme le Festival Luminato aient lieu dans notre ville.

Au nom du conseil municipal, je vous souhaite bien du plaisir à l'occasion de cet événement festif et je vous transmets mes meilleurs vœux de succès.

Salutations distinguées.

Jennifer McKelvie
Deputy Mayor of Toronto
Mairesse adjointe de Toronto



LUMINATO FESTIVAL.COM/AMAL

Walk with Amal Toronto

She's 10 years old, 12 feet tall, full of
magic and hope

Outdoor Public Art   Venue Guide, Access Guide

Co-produced with [The Walk Productions](#)
in association with [Handspring Puppet Company](#)



Multiple Locations

June 7-11

Little Amal, a 12-foot-tall puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee, has travelled to 90 cities across Europe and New York City in search of her mother. In June she will walk across the Greater Toronto Area for 5 days, looking for a home.

She will be welcomed by musicians, dancers, children and elders, civic leaders, community organizers, newcomers, and fellow refugees, in a magical festival of art and hope.

Lead Supporters

 **ROGERS** Ontario 

Community Partner

Ian and Kiki Delaney C.M.
JUSTICE FUND

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Photo courtesy of The Walk Productions

Walk Schedule

WED 7

Walk with Amal: Union Station

5:00pm - 7:30pm

A New City, a New Experience

Upon arrival at Union Station, Little Amal will be greeted with Welcome Gestures then led through the Financial District to Nathan Phillips Square by drummers and butterflies. Indigenous leaders will honour Amal with a poem and a round dance, honorary grandmothers will offer words of advice, and the community will rejoice with music in the excitement of Amal's arrival in Toronto.

Dreamwalker Dance Company with Phil Davis, Joshua "Classic Roots" DePerry, Isaiah Gilsen, Digging Roots, Queer Songbook Youth Orchestra, Kuné Music Collective, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières, Union Station, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Institute for Canadian Citizenship, National Ballet of Canada and more

THURS 8

Walk with Amal: Scarborough

12noon - 1:00pm

The Scarborough Scene

At Albert Campbell Square, R.I.S.E. Edutainment and friends introduce Amal to the five stations of Hip Hop, giving her joy and confidence in herself and her purpose.

Randell Adjei and R.I.S.E. Edutainment, Toronto Public Library, Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation and more

Walk with Amal: University of Toronto

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Graduation to Gratitude

While searching for her friends Basil and Adrian from Handspring Puppet Theatre, Amal encounters refugee scholars and University of Toronto music students and is swept up in the University's Convocation rituals. Drawn along by music, Amal is greeted at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) by therapeutic clowns, Fern and Jazz.

Lawrence Switzky & UTM Drama, Adrian Kohler & Basil Jones (Handspring Puppet Theatre), Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto Music Department, Red Pepper Spectacle Arts, The Hospital for Sick Children and more

Walk with Amal: Regent Park

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Regent Park Community Stories

Amal plays soccer at the Athletic grounds then checks out the neighborhood. On her way, she encounters the image of a Red Dress, and learns about missing Indigenous women and children through story and ceremony.

Herbie Barnes & Theresa Cutknife, MLSE Sports and Entertainment, Community Music Schools of Toronto (Regent Park) and more

FRI 9

Walk with Amal: Brampton

12noon - 1:00pm

Brampton's Many Mothers

When Amal finds herself alone in Bramalea, a group of local mothers respond in different ways to her distress. A soothing lullaby lures her around the community as she searches for the one mother she knows, but cannot find.

Sharada Eswar & Jumblies Theatre, Brampton Arts Organization, Brampton Multicultural Community Centre, Gather Round Singers, The Hive, Newcomer Bus, Brampton Library, Broadening Horizons and more

Walk with Amal: Rogers Centre

6:15pm - 7:30pm

Dancing the Seasons

After battling the bustling baseball fans, Amal passes the trains to get to Harbourfront where she encounters dozens of dancers her age, who introduce her – through their various styles of dance - to the four seasons in Canada, from the magic of spring to the snows of winter.

Robert Binet, Canadian Opera Company, Harbourfront Centre and more

SAT 10

Walk with Amal: Mississauga

11:00am - 12noon

The Games of Home

Little Amal has been wanting to play the games she knows and loves from home, and finally meets someone who can play with her. Joined by more and more people who sing familiar songs along the way, Amal is reminded of her home, but finds fun with new friends in Mississauga.

Leen Hamo, The Canadian Arabic Orchestra, Frog in Hand Theatre, Mississauga Polish Day, Peel Multicultural Centre, Arab Community Centre and more

Walk with Amal: Esplanade

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Finding Home, Walking in Audacious Hope

The community of The Esplanade reenacts the rich history of home in their neighborhood, through stories of belonging and not belonging, dance and pageantry, taking her through the streets of old Toronto to Berczy Park, where she is met by rousing voices raised in song.

KasheDance, Jamii Esplanade, Market Lane School, Nathaniel Dett Choral, Performing Arts Lodge, St Lawrence Market, Canadian Stage, TO Live and more

Walk with Amal: Thorncliffe Park

3:00pm - 4:00pm

The Scents of Home

A pop-up book from the Thorncliffe Library reminds Amal of the scents of home. Guided by birds and butterflies, she encounters many aromas - of tandoor, of tomatoes, of garbage - and finally a scent of home: the rose of Damascus.

Shadowland Theatre, Aga Khan Museum, TNO: The Neighbourhood Organization, STEPSPublicart, Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee, North York Arts, Toronto Public Library, East York Town Centre, Thorncliffe Park PS and more

Walk with Amal: Etobicoke

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Food is the Way to the Heart

Amal is hungry and searching for something familiar to eat. The residents of Mabelle Avenue offer a visual parade of favourite dishes, stopping for watermelon, sage tea, and Eritrean coffee along the way. Amal finally encounters the scent of sumac and sweets both familiar and heartening, at the Inn.

MABELLEarts, Arts Etobicoke, Newcomer Kitchen, COSTI, Montgomery's Inn and more

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Schedule cont.

SUN 11

Walk with Amal: The Bentway

12noon - 1:00pm

The Bentway Animal Parade

Racoons, blue birds, mice, foxes... oh my! Little Amal experiences urban wildlife in unexpected places, and she is delighted, frightened, and everything in between.

The Bentway, Red Pepper Spectacle Arts, Fort York Library and more

Walk with Amal: Waterfront

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Farewell Little Amal

Tkaronto bids farewell to their new friend when Little Amal leaves to continue her search for her mother. Encouraged by dancers, musicians, wise words, sweet songs and even tiny puppets, Amal leaves across Lake Ontario – may fair winds fill her sails.

Common Boots Theatre, Globe Theatre, Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes, Orchestra Toronto, NAWA (Arabic Women's Choir), Sabbara, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières, Waterfront Toronto and more

Walk with Amal: Yonge-Dundas Square

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Walk for a Better Future

Amal looks for a break from the hustle and bustle of downtown Toronto and discovers a friend in need of her help. Through a collective act, Amal is reminded of the hope and resilience of hundreds of thousands of young people across the globe fighting for a better future.

Why Not Theatre, War Child Canada, Clay and Paper Theatre, Muse Arts, Canadian Opera Company and more

Collaborators

Community Supporters

Joan and Jerry Lozinski
 Mohammad and Najla Al Zaibak
 Sandra and Jim Pitblado



Community Friends

Cheryl and Rob McEwen, C.M.
 Lucille and Urban Joseph
 Nancy Pencer
 Tim and Frances Price
 J.P. Bickell Foundation



In collaboration with

Casa Cultural Colombiana
 CCVT (Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture)
 City Newcomer Office
 CultureLink
 FCJ Refugee Centre
 Greenwood Community Centre
 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
 JAYU
 The Learning Education Foundation (LEF)
 Lifeline Syria
 Local Arts Service Organisations (LASOs)
 Local Immigration Partnership Services (LIPS)
 No 9
 Peel District School Board
 Small World Music
 Syrian Canadian Foundation
 Teach2Learn
 Together Project
 Toronto Catholic District School Board
 Toronto District School Board
 Toronto Public Library
 YMCA Newcomer Youth Leadership Programme
 York University Centre for Refugee Studies
 Woodgreen

Additional thanks to

Eli and Phil Taylor
 Susanne Boyce and Brendan Mullen
 Don Schmitt and Cheryl Atkinson
 MLSE LaunchPad
 Toronto FC
 SickKids
 Accenture

Scott Joplin's Treemonisha

A Musical Reimagining

Opera  Venue Guide, Access Guide

Co-presented with **TO Live**

Produced by [Volcano](#) in association with
[The Canadian Opera Company](#), [Soulpepper](#), and [Moveable Beast](#)

By [Scott Joplin](#)

Book & Libretto Adapted by [Leah-Simone Bowen](#)

Co-Librettist [Cheryl L. Davis](#)

Co-Arrangers [Jessie Montgomery](#) & [Jannina Norpoth](#)

Directed by [Weyni Mengesha](#)

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts 27 Front St. W.

June 6-17

Originally written by Scott Joplin (c. 1911), *Treemonisha* is one of the few pieces set soon after the abolition of slavery, written by a survivor of that era. Fusing European classical music with ragtime, folk, and gospel, *Scott Joplin's Treemonisha* tells the revolutionary story of a young Black woman who discovers her power to heal a divided people.

Lead Supporter



With assistance from

S.M. Blair Family Foundation

Photo of Neema Bickersteth as Treemonisha by Dahlia Katz
Artwork by Lost in the Island

UMINATO FESTIVAL.COM/TREEMONISHA

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"Loss is a mirror: My story, relationships and communities can reflect parts of your story, relationships, and community. For some people this is how healing could begin."

– Ian Kamau, Co-creator/Performer



Loss

An intergenerational family story

Multimedia    Venue Guide, Access Guide

Produced by [The Theatre Centre](#)

Created and Performed by [Ian Kamau](#)

Developed in Residency at [The Theatre Centre](#)

Photo of Ian Kamau by Bryan Brock

Harbourfront Centre Theatre 231 Queens Quay W.

June 14-15 & 17-18

Loss is a deeply honest, live retelling of an intergenerational family story, written by Ian Kamau and his father Roger McTair. An orchestration of memories using live music, video, and storytelling, *Loss* is an exploration of grief in Afro-Caribbean communities, and an immersive experience towards healing, shared with the audience.

Supported by

CIBC 

THE
SLAIGHT
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Aalaapi | ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ

Listen to the North

Theatre [Venue Guide](#), [Access Guide](#)

Presented by [Native Earth Performing Arts](#) and [Le Théâtre français de Toronto](#), in association with [Luminato Festival Toronto](#)

Produced by [Collectif Aalaapi](#)

Original Idea by [Laurence Dauphinais](#) and [Marie-Laurence Rancourt](#)

Directed by [Laurence Dauphinais](#)



LUMINATOFESTIVAL.COM/AALAAPI

Photo by Anne-Marie Baribeau

Ada Slaight Hall, Daniels Spectrum 585 Dundas St. E.

June 8-10

In Inuktitut, Aalaapi means “Choosing silence to hear something beautiful”.

Immerse yourself in the sounds of the North – creaking snow, whistling winds, and voices in Inuktitut, French and English - and an intimate theatrical portrait of young women in Northern communities.

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Illuminating Ideas

Venue Guide, Access Guide

Curated by [Adam Barrett](#)

Photo by Nathan Dumlaio

Across the CTA and Online May 28 - June 18

Featuring world-renowned experts, makers, movers and shakers, our conversation and education series explores the big ideas behind Luminato 2023. Featuring lively discussions, films, and opportunities to get your hands dirty, Illuminating Ideas will appeal to learners of all ages and styles.

This year's festival tells stories of migration and movement, memory and makers. From the forced movement of enslaved peoples, to the dreams of second gen kids downtown; from archived movements of dancers through the night, to imaginary creatures moving through the wilderness of time and place. All the while, through all this movement, the stories we tell are about finding home, and the search for stillness and safety at last.

Find more info on tickets and registration at:
luminatofestival.com/ideas

Ideas Schedule

MAY 28

What We Talk About When We Talk About Dumplings

Queen's Park, 110 Wellesley St. W. - 12noon

Food, a poignant reminder of home, is one of the greatest gifts that diaspora communities bring with them when they migrate to a new place. And every culture on earth has a dumpling.

Join authors from the new collection *What We Talk About When We Talk About Dumplings* to hear their stories of dumplings and diaspora. Featuring Karon Liu, Christina Gonzalez, and Chantal Braganza.

In partnership with Word on the Street.

MAY 31

Illuminating Ideas on Film

Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W. - 7:00pm

Programmed in partnership with Hot Docs Cinema, feature length documentary *We Are From There* speaks to the feeling of longing and remembrance that is present in our festival programming. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Leen Al Zaibek and Ahmed Moneka, moderated by Justine Abigail Yu.

We Are From There by Wissam Tanios

(82 minutes, Arabic with English subtitles)

Two Syrian brothers in their mid 20s take a leap of faith and decide to start their lives from scratch in new cities. They leave everything behind except their passion for life, determination, sense of humour, and hope for a better future, as radical as it may be.

Rebel: A Film by Pier-Phillipe Chevigny

(15 minutes, French with English Subtitles)

Alex, a six-year-old boy from Quebec, is oblivious to the thousands of refugees entering Canada illegally to avoid deportation. Yet when his father takes him along to a vigilante patrol in the woods to hunt out trespassing migrants, something inside him tells him to rebel.

EVERYDAY

Meeting the Doodem by Quinn Hopkins

Augmented Reality

Discover ethereal monuments to Ojibwe culture, using augmented reality on your smartphone. At *Echoes Calling Back* and *Luminato Music Weekend* find the project QR code and access these incredible digital sculptures inspired by Anishinaabe pictographs, artworks, and storytelling.

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JUNE 7

Puppets: Theory, Practice, and Possibilities

Innis College Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. - 10:00am

Join the creators of Handspring Theatre (puppetry designers of Little Amal) for a look at puppetry's world history and future. This workshop includes a video presentation; the event will be live-streamed and recorded.

Presented by with Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto

JUNE 9

Transmigrations

Beeton Hall, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. - 7:00pm

This free concert will weave together immersive live music with emotive visuals created with artificial intelligence. Themed around immigration, culture, remix, and the interplay of language and imagery, in *Transmigrations* the music and visuals explore a universe of cross pollination, drawing from Dhaivat Jani's personal experience and Toronto's diversity.

The music and visuals will be linked and controlled in tandem so that if one aspect is changed, it will be reflected in both the visuals and music. Parts of the piece will be controlled by real-time polling of the audience using their phones.

Presented by Provocation Ideas Festival and Toronto Public Library

JUNE 13

Love Across Borders

York University, Accolade Building West, Room 109, 89 York Blvd. - 7:00pm

With deep empathy, rigorous reporting, and the irresistible perspective of a true romantic, journalist Anna Lekas Miller spotlights couples around the world who confront frustrating immigration systems to be together—as she did to be with her husband.

Hear readings from Miller's newly published book and a panel discussion from experts and artists with lived experience of forced migration.

JUNE 15

Words, Music, and Black Experience

Harbourfront Centre Theatre, 231 Queens Quay W. - 5:00pm

Following the incredible success of *Beloved* last year, join Donna Bailey Nurse in conversation with leaders from music, theatre, and culture to explore the connections between *Treemonisha* and *Loss*, two of the shows in this year's festival that celebrate Black Excellence on stage and off.

JUNE 17

Sultans of String, The Refuge Project

(95 minutes, English)

A collaboration with over 30 musicians, including Béla Fleck, Robi Botos, Ifrah Mansour, Demetrios Petsalakis, Imad Al Taha, Amir Amiri, Duke Redbird, Twin Flames and others in a wide-ranging treatise on displaced peoples.

Screening on Saturday, June 17 at David Pecaut Square as part of Music Weekend.

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A Luminato membership connects you to unforgettable moments across the city. Get free access to events, exclusive invitations, and year-round programming. Join today for only \$50 to support and enjoy the best of Luminato.

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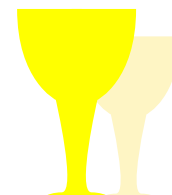
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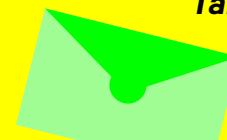
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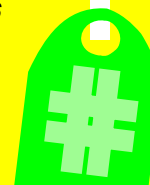
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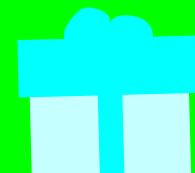
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*Tickets may be booked through TO Live
Subject to capacity. Restrictions apply
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A Literary Legacy

33 Years of CBC's Writers & Company

Talk Venue Guide, Access Guide

Produced by [CBC Radio's Writers & Company](#),
Presented in association with [Luminato Festival Toronto](#)

Photo of Eleanor Wachtel by CBC

Glenn Gould Studio 250 Front St. W.

June 16

Join host Eleanor Wachtel to celebrate the legacy of CBC Radio's flagship literary program *Writers & Company*, in honour of its 33-year history and Wachtel's esteemed broadcasting career, spanning more than four decades. This show, featuring special guests and surprises, will be a live recording of *Writers & Company's* last original episode.

In Partnership with



"Nuit the title, meaning the night, how scary it can be, how lonely it can be, but how we can lean on one another."

– Laurence Lemieux, Artistic Director, Compagnie de la Citadelle

Nuit (1986)

Jean-Pierre Perreault's seminal
work of individuality and collectivity

Dance **R** **AD** Venue Guide, Access Guide

Choreographed by Jean-Pierre Perreault

Remounted by Compagnie de la Citadelle

With the permission of Espace Perreault Transmissions
chorégraphiques

Fleck Dance Theatre 207 Queens Quay W.

June 7-10

In this demanding, fiery work, performed in half-light, Perreault transmits his energy to the dancers, who become percussion instruments, beating the ground in intoxication and finally exhaustion.

Supported by

Nancy Pencer



Photo by Kendra Epik

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LUMINATO FESTIVAL.COM/DRAGON

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"It's a truly unique, specifically Canadian view on what it means to be a second generation immigrant. This opera is all about Toronto and how we embrace differences as things that make us more interesting rather than as things that divide us."

– Michael Hidetoshi Mori, Director

Dragon's Tale

A magical opera about family and dragon boats

Opera  **Venue Guide, Access Guide**

Co-produced by [Tapestry Opera](#) and [Soundstreams](#)

Realised in partnership with [Luminato Festival Toronto](#) and [Harbourfront Centre](#)

Composed by [Chan Ka Nin](#)

Libretto by [Mark Brownell](#)

Directed by [Michael Hidetoshi Mori](#)

Music Directed by [David Fallis](#)

Artwork by Gracia Lam

Harbourfront Centre Concert Stage (outdoors)

231 Queens Quay W.

June 15-18

An operatic celebration of Chinese tradition with a Canadian backdrop. Time-travel to ancient China with Xiao Lian, a contemporary Chinese-Canadian woman yearning for independence and bound by love, who discovers the rich history of dragon boating. From the creators of Soundstreams' *The Weaving Maiden* and Tapestry Opera's smash-hit *Iron Road* composer Chan Ka Nin, and award-winning playwright and librettist Mark Brownell.

Supported by



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Echoes Calling Back

Who roamed what we call home, when this place was still wilderness?

Public Art Venue Guide, Access Guide, Online Audio Description

Commissioned by [Luminato Festival Toronto](#)

Created by [Jordan Bennett](#)

Curated and Produced by **MASSIV ART**

Photo by Adam Barrett
Concept rendering by Landmark Creations & Jordan Bennett

College Park (outdoors) 444 Yonge St.
June 8-18

Exploring the ancient relics of North American mega-fauna and using Bennett's signature graphic style evocative of porcupine quill work found in Mi'kmaq visual culture, this whimsical antler imagines a playful remnant from a distant past, and will remind us that what we call home was once wilderness.

Supported by

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Linda Chu and John Donald



Belonging Is

You belong here

Public Art

Created by [Bareket Kezwer](#)

Photo by Cassandra Popescu

Union Station 65 Front Street W.

June 7-18

Through a series of guided engagements communities will be invited to explore their sense of belonging in the creation of a new temporary mural at one of the city's busiest intersections. What does belonging feel like? Smell like? What is a memory you have of feeling like you belonged?

Each day a new prompt will lead to the creation of a community mural animating space to remind us all that we are part of something, and that we are in this together.



Luminato Music Weekend

Free Concert Series
June 17 & 18

Curated by [Alex Bordokas](#)

David Pecaut Square (outdoors) 215 King St W.

Celebrate the incredible community of musicians from across the world and around the block who will make Toronto sing and dance! Luminato's closing weekend features surprise collaborations and musical conversations between incredible locals and international stars. David Pecaut Square will be transformed, as we take you around the world and back home again, with curated food and drink, and creative activities for all ages.

Presented by



Supported by



With Assistance from

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Luminato Music Weekend Evening Line-up

Saturday June 17
David Pecaut Square
1pm-11pm



Moneka Arabic Jazz + Guests

5:00pm

Moneka Arabic Jazz reflects the life and journey in art from Baghdad to Toronto of founder Ahmed Moneka, showcasing melodies from his homeland Iraq mixed with African groove and rhythm. Jazz and blues bridge these Afro-Arabic traditions with the fascinating musical diversity of Torontonians performers.



Yaya Bey

6:30pm

Described by Pitchfork as “resplendent,” **Yaya Bey** blends R&B, soul, and jazz with the powerful specificity of her lyrics. Exploring a range of sounds and emotions, Yaya Bey brings high energy, down tempo beats to your Saturday afternoon.



Pierre Kwenders

7:30pm

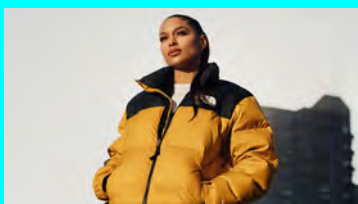
Congolese-Canadian Polaris Prize winner **Pierre Kwenders** combines the sounds of Congo and Montreal to create electro-pop with a unique sonic landscape. “His every song summons an international midnight” – The New Yorker



Snotty Nose Rez Kids

8:30pm

First Nations hip hop duo **Snotty Nose Rez Kids**, rappers Darren “Young D” Metz and Quinton “Yung Trybez” Nyce - originally from Kitimaat Village, British Columbia - deliver bold, unapologetic political messages enhanced and elevated by fast-paced rhymes and soaring synths.



Princess Nokia

9:30pm

New York rapper/singer/songwriter **Princess Nokia** brings Saturday night to a rousing finish with their signature blend of rap & hip hop, infused with pop culture references and high energy performance.

Sunday June 18
David Pecaut Square
1pm-10pm



Mato Wayuhi

4:15pm

Mato Wayuhi “Standing Soldier” is a young Lakota artist originally from South Dakota, and is the music composer for the hit show Reservation Dogs. The music is described as unapologetic, not needing permission to exist and made with an urgency — an urgency to move Indigenous artists into a new era. He was recently featured on CBC Radio’s Reclaimed and now brings his RnB/ pop sound to Toronto for the first time.



Ayom + Guests

5:15pm

Ayom are musical seafarers who traverse the Black Atlantic from Brazil to Angola and Cape Verde, bringing with them a distinctly Mediterranean identity. They are an intercultural group from Lisbon and Barcelona, and their sound is a mix of Brazilian, Afrolatin and Afrolusitan sounds.



Tank and the Bangas

6:45pm

From NPR’s Tiny Desk to TikTok, **Tank and the Bangas** have been bringing their New Orleans, Afro-centric soul to people everywhere since 2011. Creating joy is their business in music and performance, and indeed their performance is second to none. They won the 2017 NPR Tiny Desk Contest and were nominated for Best New Artist at the 2020 Grammy Awards.



Zeca Pagodinho

8:30pm

Luminato 2023 comes to a spectacular close with the crown prince of Samba Carioca **Zeca Pagodinho**. A rare visit by one of the global greats, Zeca’s inimitable sound is steeped in decades of experience performing around the world, representing the incredible musical legacy of samba and pagode. Zeca holds the heart of Rio de Janeiro, the sound of community where everyday life revolves around the joy and lament that is samba. The dreams, fears, aspirations and love for life of all Brazilian people is wrapped in the poetry of samba songs.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE ARTISTS!

Accessibility

Radio LUMI is back! Listen to our team with special guests, led by radio personalities from the Blind and Low Vision communities broadcasting over ISO.fm.

Our Blind and Low Vision Programs also include Live Audio Described Performances of *Nuit* and *Scott Joplin's Treemonisha*, as well as pre-recorded Audio Description of *Echoes Calling Back* by Jordan Bennett.

Check out our Deaf & Hard of Hearing Programs, including ASL-interpreted performances by Deaf Interpreters of *Scott Joplin's Treemonisha*, *Loss*, and performances at Luminato Music Weekend! Pre-show ASL videos will also be available for select performances.

We're excited to offer Sensory Friendly Programs this year! Designed for patrons who may benefit from a more relaxed theatre environment, we will be offering Relaxed Performances for select shows this year.

All Luminato shows have an Access Guide detailing the project's accessibility features. Learn about access supports, event information, and additional online content. Venue Guides offer an extensive overview of the location, parking, TTC, accessible washrooms, and more. For outdoor venues, check in at our Access Tent for on-site support.

Explore the Access Hub for more!

Thank you **Kingfisher Foundation** for supporting Radio LUMI!

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A special Thank You to our Volunteers

The Volunteer Office at Luminato would like to extend an extra special THANK YOU! to our dedicated Volunteer Team. Volunteers play a significant role in the smooth operations of our Festival. It is only with their help that we are able to provide a rich and enjoyable experience for our patrons and attendees. Whether returning or new, we are so excited to have our volunteers onboard for an exciting 2023 Festival - thank you!

We also want to thank the Volunteer Award for Arts & Culture Toronto (VAACT) committee and its members for their ongoing recognition of the festival volunteer community in Toronto.

For more information about the Luminato Volunteer Team, or to become a volunteer, visit
<https://luminatofestival.com/support/volunteer>

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Festival Calendar

WEEK ONE: June 6-11

EVENT AND VENUE	Tues June 6	Wed June 7	Thurs June 8	Fri June 9	Sat June 10	Sun June 11
TICKETED						
Treemonisha Bluma Appel Theatre	2pm (Preview)	8pm (Preview)	8pm (Preview)		8pm	4pm (ASL)
Aalaapi آلاأبي Ada Slight Hall			7:30pm	7:30pm	1pm 7:30pm	
Nuit Fleck Dance Theatre		8pm (Preview/ Relaxed)	8pm	8pm	8pm (Audio Described)	
FREE						
Walk with Amal Toronto Across GTA		Union Station to Nathan Phillips Square	Scarborough UofT Regent Park	Brampton Thornccliffe Park Rogers Centre to Harbourfront Centre	Mississauga Etobicoke Esplanade to Berczy Park	The Bentway Yonge-Dundas Square to College Park The Waterfront
Echoes Calling Back College Park			All day	All day	All day	All day
Belonging Is Union Station		All day	All day	All day	All day	All day
Illuminating Ideas Across Toronto		10am <i>Puppets: Theory, Practice and Possibilities</i>		7pm <i>Transmigrations</i>		
Meeting the Doodem Augmented Reality	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day

WEEK TWO: June 12-18

EVENT AND VENUE	Mon June 12	Tues June 13	Wed June 14	Thurs June 15	Fri June 16	Sat June 17	Sun June 18
TICKETED							
Treemonisha Bluma Appel Theatre			8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm (Audio Described)	
Loss Harbourfront Centre Theatre			8pm	8pm (ASL)		2pm (Relaxed) 8pm	2pm
Dragon's Tale Harbourfront Centre Concert Stage				8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm (Relaxed)
FREE							
Music Weekend David Pecaut Square						1pm-11pm	1pm-10pm
Echoes Calling Back College Park	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day
Belonging Is Union Station	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day
Illuminating Ideas Across Toronto		7pm <i>Love Across Borders</i>		5pm <i>Words, Music and Black Experience</i>			
Meeting the Doodem Augmented Reality	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day	All day

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