

Autos Careers Classifieds Homes



Big weekend for fairs, festivals in Ottawa region

By AEDAN HELMER, OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: July 23, 2010 5:12pm

OK, music lovers of the nation's capital. You've had a good five days now to rest up, give your ear drums a break, sleep off that hangover and soothe that sunburn.

Between the Jazz Festival, HOPE Summerfest, Music and Beyond and Bluesfest, it's been a solid month of nightly live music in the city's great outdoors, but there's no rest for the weary in Ottawa's festival season.

Country music lovers will soon get their day in the sun with Carleton Place's Riverside Jam (July 30 to Aug. 1) and the inaugural Capital Hoedown (Aug. 5 to 7) just over the horizon, and the countdown is on for the family-favourite Folk Festival (Aug. 13 to 15), but in the meantime, the weekend has plenty to offer on a crowded festival calendar.

Classical music lovers, from the casual to the aficionado, will delight in a double helping of orchestral and chamber music, with Saturday's launch of the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival and with Orchestras in the Park already in full swing.

For the next twelve days, Chamberfest will feature hundreds of world class musicians with performances in churches and in some of the city's most intimate settings.

Meanwhile, the beer-soaked Bluesfest grounds at Lebreton Flats have dried up just in time for a series of free musical sunset performances by the National Arts Centre Orchestra, presented by the National Capital Commission.

If cuisine and culture are more your thing, the calendar is crammed with a savoury pairing of perennial favourites, the Ottawa Turkish Festival and the Lebanese Festival, with the sights, sounds and flavours of one of the capital's most distinct and lively communities.

The Turkish Festival, at Confederation Park, is free to the public and offers a taste of Turkish art, folk dance, including the famed Whirling Dervishes of Rumi, traditional music, children's activities and gourmet cuisine.

The always popular Lebanese Festival, at St. Elias Church at the corner of Riverside Dr. and Ridgewood in Mooney's Bay, celebrates its 20th anniversary with an authentic Lebanese marketplace, traditional cultural performances, crafts, rides, games, and of course, the authentic Lebanese delicacies.

Heading out of town for the weekend?

No worries, pop into the picturesque village of Delta for the 180th Delta Fair with venerable Canadian rocker Kim Mitchell taking the stage at 8 p.m.

Last year, Mitchell's headlining performance was rained out after only three songs, so organizers prepared for the weather this time around with a rainproof bandshell.

For a genuine country fair, there are few better than the Chesterville Fair, which revs up this weekend with a midway, demolition derby and tractor pull, with Ambush headlining Saturday's main attractions.

aedan.helmer@sunmedia.ca

For more information on these area events, click the links to their websites:

OTTAWA TURKISH FESTIVAL (Confederation Park, Laurier and Elgin streets): www.ottawaturkishfestival.com
OTTAWA LEBANESE FESTIVAL (St. Elias Cathedral, 700Ridgewood Dr. -- adjacent to Mooney's Bay, just off Riverside Dr.): <http://www.ottawalebanesefestival.com/>
DELTA FAIR (about 25 km west of Brockville, on Hwy. 42): www.deltafair.com/Welcome.html
CHESTERVILLE FAIR (about 25 km east of Kemptville, on Regional Rd. 7) <http://www.chestervillefair.com/>
OTTAWA CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL (various locations in Ottawa): www.chamberfest.com
ORCHESTRAS IN THE PARK (Britannia Park, Ottawa): www.canadascapital.gc.ca/orchestras

Copyright © 2010 Ottawa Sun All Rights Reserved