

Why You Should Attend Haliburton Forest's Forest Festival

On Thursday August 20, 2009, Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve will once again play host to the popular outdoor concert series known as The Forest Festival (<http://www.theforestfestival.com>). An annual festival of open-air concerts and events that link nature, ecology and music, the festival this year will feature entertainment by a variety of outstanding musicians over a four day weekend. Set amid the rugged grandeur of Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, audiences are invited to experience the work of fabulous Canadian musical performers and artists.

The Forest Festival 2009 begins the evening of Thursday August 20 and runs until the evening of Sunday August 23. Performed against a stunning wilderness backdrop of tranquil lakes and unspoiled forest, talented Canadian musicians will delight audiences with their work. Performances will take place at two locations within Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve's 70,000 acre property; at the historic Logging Museum located at Base Camp and at the spectacular Amphitheatre overlooking beautiful Bone Lake.

This season, The Forest Festival will be offering six stellar performances, including four evening concerts and two matinees. The outstanding line up starts on Thursday evening with a concert by Porkbelly Futures featuring Paul Quarrington. Quarrington, an acclaimed Canadian author and musician, is the leader of Porkbelly Futures a wildly popular, roots/blues band known for its unusual songs dedicated to fundamental folk, roots and blues. This concert will feature a Wolf Howl at intermission with the pack of captive Western Timber Wolves at the Forest's Wolf Center. Porkbelly Futures and Paul Quarrington will also perform a matinee presentation of "Words & Music" on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Quarrington will offer readings from some of his very popular novels prior to the concert.

Making their debut at The Forest Festival in 2007, The Forest Festival Brass is an ensemble of talented principal musicians from major Canadian orchestras who never fail to delight audiences with a varied selection of music, from Handel (Water Music) to Gershwin and R. Murray Schafer. Lead by former Canadian Brass trumpeter Stuart Laughton, The Forest Festival Brass, is slated for evening shows on Saturday and Sunday at the stunning Bone Lake Amphitheatre.

Anne Lindsay will join forces with guitar maestro Jason Fowler on Friday evening for a lakeside concert performance not to be missed. With a reputation as one of the most engaging and multitalented instrumentalists in Canada, Ms. Lindsay has worked with numerous musical luminaries including Blue Rodeo and John McDermott. She is also a member of the very popular Jim Cuddy Band. Jason Fowler is one of Canada's most gifted guitarists. An accomplished musician of amazing versatility, Mr. Fowler performs musical styles from folk, country and bluegrass, to blues, rock, jazz and classical. Mr. Fowler is John McDermott's musical Director.

On Sunday afternoon Anne Lindsay will return to the Bone Lake Amphitheatre with her amazing one-woman show, '‘String Sound Poetry'. In this concert, Ms. Lindsay plays a variety of musical instruments including the multi-stringed Scandinavian Nyckelharpa, the instrument she played as a cast member of the stage production of "The Lord of the Rings" in Toronto. It will be a "not to be missed" performance by this extraordinarily talented violinist/fiddler.

During The Forest Festival, visitors to Haliburton Forest are welcome to enjoy art installations of '‘The Landart Project' along forest trails. As well, visitors are invited to join a chorus of wild wolves on the Opening Night Wolf Howl. The Forest Festival is just one of many unique outdoor experiences offered through the year by Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve, Canada's first sustainable forest. At the Haliburton Forest, visitors can enjoy a variety of special events and educational programs along with such unique attractions as the Wolf Centre and the '‘Walk in the Clouds' canopy tour.

About The Forest Festival: Held each year at Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve, in Haliburton, Ontario - close to Algonquin Provincial Park, The Forest Festival runs from August 20 to August 23/09 offering unique outdoor concerts and musical performances that compliment the beauty of the surrounding wilderness. Concert tickets are just \$25 for adults, \$20 for students, or \$80 for all six concerts and may be ordered by phone: (705)754-2198. Visit the Forest Festival website for more informaton:www.theforestfestival.com.

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