

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE – CELEBRATING THE GUITAR

Program Information

The National Music Centre’s Artist in Residence program is designed to feed and nurture artistic creativity and technical innovation by providing artists with uninterrupted time and space, and the use of our unique collection and expertise, to create new and innovative works in a supportive, world-class facility.

We are thrilled to announce this special Artist in Residence program designed to complement what National Music Centre has coined as “The Year of the Guitar.” Having celebrated the guitar with three new exhibitions including Showcase: Guitar, Randy Bachman: Every Guitar Tells a Story as well as an exhibition dedicated to 2023 Canada Music Hall of Famers Nickelback, we’re excited to offer musicians a unique opportunity to showcase the guitar as the central theme of their residency.

From Neil Young’s 1935 Martin guitar and 1958 Fender Pro amp to Nash the Slash’s Echoplex EP-3 tape delay, this is a unique opportunity to create new music with historic items from the National Music Centre’s collection. Through NMC’s world-class recording studios, artists will be able to pair instruments and classic guitar gear with classic recording equipment – it’s an opportunity to record the guitar unlike anywhere else in the world. Using the Trident A-Range console and Olympic console, artists can record with the same recording equipment used by guitar legends like Queen, Metallica, Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin.

The National Music Centre Artist in Residence program at Studio Bell is made possible by support from Bell Media.

Program Elements

This self-directed program provides access to NMC’s unique studio environments and music technology collection.

Definition

Artist = professional, established, and emerging musicians, bands, ensembles, composers, songwriters, producers, technicians, educators, academics and interdisciplinary projects.

Application Process

Applications for 2023 residencies are now open. **The deadline to apply is September 18, 2023.** Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Those whose project proposal best highlights the guitar as a focal point of the residency
- Those who have demonstrated excellence and a commitment to music
- Those projects with artistic merit that show promise and originality
- Those who propose creative use of the NMC collection, equipment, and resources
- Those who help fulfill the National Music Centre (NMC) mandate to serve all levels of artistic development and diversity regarding gender, ethnicity, age, region, and musical genre
- Potential impact of the project on the artist's career
- Community outreach potential
- **Artists must use their residency in October or November 2023**

Admissions

An internal committee will convene to review applicant submissions and select successful participants.

Residency Period

The standard residency length is five days between Mondays and Fridays. Residencies typically take place during the day, however, some hours may need to be negotiated around artist needs, resources, and other NMC programming. **The awarded residency must be completed by October or November of 2023.**

Facilities

Artists in Residence are provided with:

- A period of focused time to concentrate on personal artistic development and work towards their proposed project
- An opportunity to use, sample and record unique instruments from the collection at NMC
- Access to performance spaces for community outreach and engagement
- Access to NMC's specialized collections staff and their expertise

Community Outreach

All artists participating in the Artist in Residence program will participate in some form of community outreach (i.e. performance, workshop, talk, mentorship, collaborative projects, or presenting works in progress). Details of the public-facing component will be developed before and during the residency with the help of NMC's programming team.

Photo/Video/Media

All artists participating in the Artist in Residence program are asked to provide a short video testimonial of their time spent in residence at NMC and to allow for photo and video documentation of their residency. This is to be used for promotional and archival purposes as a testimony for future residencies and as a way of documenting the long-term care and maintenance of the collection. NMC is to receive appropriate credit on all recordings worked on or completed while in residence. NMC will also work to amplify each artist's residency via media interviews, which will be handled on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the artist.



Travel, Housing, and Meals

Transportation, accommodation, and meals are the responsibility of the artist.

Instruments/Equipment

Artists are required to clarify all equipment and instrument needs at the time of application. Where possible, NMC staff will make best efforts to provide access to instruments and equipment that are not specified in advance but are discovered while the artist is in residence. Please download and review the Instrument/Equipment List and indicate which instruments/equipment are required to fulfill your project needs. Please focus your selections to your top 10 and rate them in order of importance, indicating the rationale behind your choices where possible.

Artists are also asked to bring any additional equipment, resources, devices and/or software not provided by NMC that may be essential to their residency and specify these items at the time of application.

Recording and Technical Assistance

There are three recording consoles that artists can use at NMC: the Rolling Stones Mobile Recording Studio (RSM), created by the famous rock band and recorded on by a long list of music heavyweights; the Olympic Studios console from the 1970s that was used by an assortment of acts that visited the famed London studio, such as David Bowie, Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix; and the Trident A-Range console, which is internationally recognized as one of the rarest and most-prized recording consoles.

Special features:

- 3 main control rooms (production environments)
- 3 large studios (recording environments)
- 3 isolation sound booths
- 3 recording consoles: Rolling Stones Mobile Studio, Olympic and Trident A-Range
- Acoustic sound lab (exploration into NMC's vast acoustic musical instrument collections)
- Electronic sound lab (exploration into NMC's vast electronic musical instrument collections)
- Ability to switch between analog and digital technologies to create an unprecedented, unique and flexible recording experience

A professional recording engineer is not provided as a part of the residency, however, an acoustic technician, electronic technician, and production assistant are present throughout the residency to assist and provide expertise with the recording process. Artists are welcome to invite an engineer or producer to support them in their residency and include this aspect in the project proposal.

Access to Recording Outside of Residency

Should an artist wish to continue recording after their allotted time, they may access the studios via our commercial channel. Full rates are available at nmc.ca/recording.

