

National Music Centre announces second wave of Artist in Residence participants for 2019

Fall season kicks off with free show at the King Eddy

(Calgary, AB — August 6, 2019) The National Music Centre (NMC) is pleased to announce the next four acts that will participate in its Artist in Residence (AiR) program for the fall of 2019, Canadian indie-rock legend **Ian Blurton**, Calgary singer-songwriter and harpist **Hermitess**, Toronto hip hop artist **Shopé**, and electro-pop sibling act **Too Attached**.

“Word is starting to get out about the unique opportunity that exists behind the walls of Studio Bell,” said Adam Fox, NMC’s Director of Programs. “Our Artist in Residence program continues to attract esteemed mid-career and emerging breakout Canadian artists who are looking for inspiration. This season’s crop of participants represents a diverse cross-section of the exceptional artists working in Canada today.”

As a vocalist, guitarist, songwriter, and producer, **Ian Blurton** has been a central figure in Toronto’s indie rock scene since the early ‘80s, forming bands such as Change of Heart, C’Mon, Public Animal, Future Now, and others. Blurton will be in residence recording a new album using the mighty Rolling Stones Mobile. Drummer Glenn Milchem (Blue Rodeo), bassist Anna Ruddick (Randy Bachman) and guitarist Aaron Goldstein will also be joining him for the recording, which will culminate into a free concert at the King Eddy on September 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm. “Working on the Rolling Stones Mobile, as some of my fave artists have done, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Blurton. “I look forward to letting its history seep into the records’ DNA.”

Calgary’s **Hermitess** is the solo project of songwriter and harpist Jennifer Crighton (also of The Consonant C and Devonian Gardens). Stripping back the performance to a harp and voice, the Hermitess is an inquisitive, contrary, wounded, wise and ever dreaming incantation. Crighton will use her time in residence to record an EP of new songs working with engineer and producer Elisa Pangsang and a collection of other local musician collaborators. Crighton and Pangsang will present a public workshop on October 6, 2019 at 1:00 pm at Studio Bell. “Time at Studio Bell will be spent producing the first in a series of EPs deliberately conceived to further my musical relationships with femme engineers and producers,” said Crighton. “I’m interested in both supporting an underrepresented demographic of music professionals, as well as the impact working this way will have on my creative process, as an artist with a distinctly feminist bent. Having the support of the National Music Centre as I begin this project is truly a gift towards realizing this vision.”

Shopé (a.k.a. Mosope Adeyemi) is a Nigerian-Canadian hip-hop artist from Toronto, whose stage moniker means to “make joy” in his native Nigerian. The artist secured a coveted recording residency at Studio Bell after winning CBC Music’s 2019 Searchlight competition, beating out over 2,000 original Canadian song submissions with his track, “Come Wid It.” Shopé will present a public workshop on November 2, 2019 at 1:00 pm at Studio Bell. “I count myself incredibly fortunate being selected to be a

part of such an esteemed program as NMC's Artist in Residence program," said Shopé. "Every creative understands the value of being able to lock into a creative zone, surrounded by invaluable resources for a concentrated period of time, so the opportunity is truly beyond words. My team and I look forward to what we believe will be an amazing week working with the NMC team."

Shamik Bilgi and Vivek Shraya are the two siblings behind **Too Attached**. The synth-pop duo's latest album, *Angry*, was called "Canada's most incisive, radical and galvanizing albums" by CBC Music. With Shamik and Vivek currently based in different cities (Vancouver and Calgary), the pair will use their time in residence to focus on intensive songwriting sessions. Too Attached will present a public workshop on November 9, 2019 at 1:00 pm at Studio Bell. "We are so excited about our upcoming residency at the incredible National Music Centre," said Vivek Shraya. "This is particularly significant to us, both of us being born in Alberta, and feels like a full circle to get to explore the next chapter of our band's evolution here."

The National Music Centre's Artist in Residence program is designed to feed and nurture artistic creativity and technical innovation by providing artists at various levels of professional development with uninterrupted time and space, and the use NMC's singular collection and expertise, to create new and innovative works in a supportive, world-class facility.

The Artist in Residence program offers access to three historic recording consoles, including the Rolling Stones Mobile recording studio (RSM), and over 300 musical artifacts, spanning 450 years of music technology and innovation.

Past AiR participants have included 2019 JUNO winner and 2018 Polaris Music Prize winner Jeremy Dutcher, DJ-producer duo A Tribe Called Red, neo-classical pianist Jean-Michel Blais, FRONTPERSON (the project of Kathryn Calder of The New Pornographers and Mark Andrew Hamilton of Woodpigeon), jazz artist Quinsin Nachoff, psych-rock trio nêhiyawak, guitar slinger Luke Doucet, and many others.

Tickets for all NMC Artist in Residence performances are available now. Please go to studiobell.ca/whats-on to purchase your tickets in advance. NMC Members get free admission to all Artist in Residence workshops. Become a member now, visit studiobell.ca/become-a-member.

The National Music Centre's Artist in Residence program is generously supported by Bell Media.

About Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre

The National Music Centre (NMC) is a registered charity and national catalyst for discovery, innovation and renewal through music. In its new home at Studio Bell, NMC is preserving and celebrating Canada's music story and inspiring a new generation of music lovers through programming that includes on-site and outreach education programs, performances, artist incubation, and exhibitions. For more information, please visit studiobell.ca.

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