

## Toronto-based soul act Tanika Charles wins first Polaris Artist Residency

[Lixar, National Music Centre, and Polaris Music Prize award five-day residency](#)

(Toronto, ON and Calgary, AB — September 19, 2019) As announced earlier this week at the Polaris Music Prize Gala in Toronto, soul singer Tanika Charles is the winner of the first Polaris Artist Residency at Studio Bell in Calgary.

Lixar, the National Music Centre (NMC), and the Polaris Music Prize are behind the partnership that is awarding Charles the chance to explore NMC's vast collection of historic musical instruments and equipment, and record inside the world-class facility at Studio Bell.

Chosen from the 2019 Long List of 40 artists to receive a five-day residency at Studio Bell, Charles' sophomore album, *The Gumption*, landed her a spot on this year's long list. It's the second nomination for Charles whose 2016 debut, *Soul Run*, also earned a Polaris long list recognition.

"I was shocked to learn I'd been selected for the Polaris Artist Residency," said Tanika Charles. "This is a great opportunity to challenge myself, to hone in on my writing skills, experiment with new instruments, and possibly craft a new sound. I'm excited to work with some incredible like-minded musicians and tinker with vintage equipment we normally wouldn't have access to. And maybe I'll walk away with some key pieces of my next album."

Charles joins a list of esteemed artists who have also participated in various streams of NMC's residency program, including 2018 Polaris Music Prize winner Jeremy Dutcher, along with short list nominated artists A Tribe Called Red, Jean-Michel Blais, Basia Bulat, and Timber Timbre.

The Polaris Artist Residency will take place at Studio Bell in January of 2020, culminating with a live performance and party at one of NMC's venue spaces. The resulting work of the residency will be recorded and pressed to vinyl, courtesy of Lixar. More details on the public component and live recording to be announced at a later date.

### About Lixar

Lixar is a Premier AI and Data Company that delivers practical, actionable results with AI, today. Lixar is built on 20 years of delivering end-to-end services & enterprise-scale experience in Data, Development, IoT and Cloud. Lixar is growing with its talented teams in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Ottawa, ON, Toronto, ON and now, Calgary, Alberta. Lixar is the 2019 winner of the AI Innovation Microsoft Impact Award and also a Triple Gold Microsoft Partner in Development, Data and Cloud Solutioning. Member of the CIO Strategy Council. Proud community supporter of the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, Halifax Pop Explosion, Megaphono Music Festival, and the Polaris Music Prize. For more

information, please visit [lixar.com](http://lixar.com).

### **About Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre**

Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre (NMC), is much more than a museum. A registered charity and national catalyst for discovery, innovation and renewal through music, NMC is preserving and celebrating Canada's music story inside its home at Studio Bell in Calgary's East Village. With programming that includes on-site and outreach education programs, performances, artist incubation and exhibitions, NMC is inspiring a new generation of music lovers. For more information, please visit [studiobell.ca](http://studiobell.ca).

### **About the Polaris Music Prize**

The Polaris Music Prize is a not-for-profit organization that annually honours and rewards artists who produce Canadian music albums of distinction. A select panel of music critics judge and award the Prize without regard to musical genre or commercial popularity. For more information, please visit [polarismusicprize.ca](http://polarismusicprize.ca).

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### **Media Contact:**

Amanda McCauley  
Indoor Recess Public Relations Inc.  
T 905.926.6440  
[amanda@indoorrecess.com](mailto:amanda@indoorrecess.com)

Julijana Capone, Senior Publicist  
National Music Centre  
T 403.543.5123 | C 403.710.4758  
[julijana.capone@nmc.ca](mailto:julijana.capone@nmc.ca) | [@nmc\\_canada](https://twitter.com/nmc_canada)

Shelley Fraser  
Lixar  
T 613.722-0688 | C 613.720.9498  
[sfraser@lixar.com](mailto:sfraser@lixar.com)