

TD Mosaic Festival bringing well-known names to Mississauga's Celebration Square

WhatsOn Aug 08, 2017 by [Chris Clay](/mississauga-on-author/chris-clay/394415f2-1fbf-4b20-9109-8bec62992ea0/) (<mailto:cclay@mississauga.net>) Mississauga News

Some pretty big names from the South Asian music scene are winging their way west to Mississauga.

Asma Mahmood is artistic director of the Canadian Community Arts Initiative (CCAI), which organizes and presents the TD Mosaic Festival each year. And, she says there's a buzz building around some of the well-known artists who will perform in Celebration Square as part of the festival that runs Friday, Aug. 11 and Saturday, Aug. 12.

Pakistani musician Javed Bashir will be performing for the first-time ever in Mississauga when he headlines the Friday night portion of the festival. He's known for his appearances on the popular music show *Coke Studio* and for his playback singing in a number of Bollywood films include *Kahaani* and *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*.

Also part of the entertainment lineup is Bushra Ansari. Mahmood said the veteran actor with a comedic bent has quite the following overseas and is also an accomplished singer.

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She will be performing music selections from the Pakistani television drama *Udaari*, in which she stars as Sheedan, as well as other songs on the Saturday.

Also hitting the stage on Saturday is India's Kailash Kher. Mahmood described him as a charismatic and talented performer whose musical style incorporates elements of Sufi, Bollywood and folk sounds fused with pop and rock.

He has released several albums and has sung more than 700 songs in films as a playback singer. He's bringing along his Kailasa band to join him for the Mississauga performance.

Mahmood said there's been a lot of interest in the artists they've secured for the festival and feels they're bringing in some top notch performers that will appeal to both the South Asian community and also others who aren't as familiar with the musicians.

Recognition around TD Mosaic continues to grow after it was named the Festival of the Year at the 2017 MARTY Awards.

"We want to live up to the expectations," said Mahmood. "For us, the bar has been raised as the other festivals (that were) in the running are very reputable and we take inspiration from them."

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To help celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary this year, festival organizers wanted to both engage and support Indigenous art and culture and there will be a number of performances and activities by said artists.

In the spring, the CCAI sent Indigenous artist David R. Maracle to to Lahore, Pakistan, at the invitation of Beaconhouse National University and Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop. While there, the sculptor and musician from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory shared his culture and art through workshops, talks and demonstrations.

He will give a special talk and also perform at Mosaic. Also performing is Mi'kmaq artist Thomas Starwalker Clair and a Chhau dance troupe who will perform the titular semiclassical Indian dance form that has martial, tribal and folk origins.

Other performers include Anwar Khurshid, who has assembled a diverse collection of international and Canadian musicians, Arzoo Dance Theatre, Irudaya Dance Company and others. Closing out the festival, as they have since it started, is a performance by Shiamak Dance Toronto.

On Saturday, there's a halwa poori brunch and there will be a variety of other vendors selling food, clothing, art, jewelry and more. There's also free art workshops for children.

For more information, visit www.mosaicfest.com.

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