



PRESS RELEASE

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Maillardville heritage homes open their doors to Musique Chez Nous

The organizers of Musique Chez Nous are delighted this year to be able to present concerts in some of Maillardville's most beautiful heritage homes. Laura MacMaster, executive director of Place des Arts, asserts that using heritage homes as concert venues is a way of celebrating francophone heritage and reaching out into the community: "this is about a creative concert experience. The intimacy means that it is very different from other venues".

This intimacy does indeed distinguish Musique Chez Nous from other concerts, and it allows audiences to experience and become part of Maillardville's unique francophone heritage. Melissa Rougeau, president of the Coquitlam Heritage Society, describes Musique Chez Nous as a "very positive event" and enthuses that it is "wonderful that we can share this event with our neighbours [Place des Arts]". The Coquitlam Heritage Society works hand in hand with Maison Mackin House where three Musique Chez Nous concerts will be staged this year. Mackin House, located in Heritage Square, was built in 1909 as the residence for Fraser Mills' sales manager Henry J. Mackin and his family. The house changed ownership with the sawmill, and remained a residence until 1971. In 1993 the Coquitlam Heritage Society began transforming the mansion into a museum and today the Mackin Heritage Home & Toy Museum offers visitors a glimpse of what life was like in the early days of Maillardville.

Place des Arts' events coordinator Michael Fera argues that staging concerts in Mackin House "allows the audience to enjoy a concert like they may have done a century ago". The concert "brings together the richness of the past and the cultural diversity of the future" in one event, he raves.

Other Maillardville neighbours have also opened their homes and businesses for Musique Chez Nous – you can find a complete venue list at www.placedesarts.ca.

Musique Chez Nous is presented by Place des Arts in partnership with In The House Festival and the Maillardville Residents' Association, and with the support of VanCity, SOCAN and the Hamber Foundation. Performances are in the intimate setting of Maillardville heritage homes. Tickets are \$10 per concert or \$40 for a full weekend pass. Visit www.placedesarts.ca or call 604.664.1636 for detailed venue information. This event is part of the City of Coquitlam's Flaunt Your Frenchness campaign. From February 19 to 25 be sure to check out the Heritage Society's display at Coquitlam Centre as they celebrate Heritage Week.