

FESTIVAL VAN VLAANDEREN MECHELEN PRESENTS

LUNALIA

MO 25.04 – 20:15

Mi'kmaq

Moon Ritual

Kiya Tabassian,
Darlene Gijuminag,
Hamin Honari

100% power of the full moon

LOCATION

Cultural Centre Mechelen

MUSICIANS

Darlene Gijuminag, *Mi'kmaq
drums and voices*

Kiya Tabassian, *setar*

Hamin Honari, *percussion*



Mi'kmaq Moon Ritual

The fact that the Festival of Flanders in Mechelen is called Lunalia makes sense to anyone who knows the Legend of the Mechelen Maneblussers. As the story goes, the people of Mechelen spent the night of 27-28 January 1687 trying to extinguish flames in St. Rumbold's Tower. However, the tower was not on fire. The zealous citizens had been trying to extinguish the moon. The nickname Maneblusser, or 'Moon Extinguisher' has since become a badge of honour for true citizens of Mechelen. The festival of Lunalia honours this tradition by regularly organising full moon concerts at the top of St. Rumbold's Tower, as well as hosting full moon rituals as opening concerts. Incidentally, the mission of the festival is to offer timeless music with the "power of the full moon". So it goes without saying that Lunalia is especially proud to present a genuine Mi'kmaq moon ritual in 2022.

Perhaps the term Mi'kmaq does not ring a bell with everyone. Maybe some people remember the version of the Beatles song Blackbird that Emma Stevens put online in 2019? In that film, which has since had more than a million views, she sings the song in the Mi'kmaq language. Or maybe you remember the chilling novel Pet Semetary by Stephen King (or the film of the book), centred around a Mi'kmaq burial ground? What about the remarkable protest in the 1990s by the Mi'kmaq people in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia against mining in a mountain that was sacred to them? The Mi'kmaq are among the First Nations of Canada. These are the Indigenous people of Canada besides the Inuit and Métis. The name Mi'kmaq is probably derived from the greeting Nikmaq! which means "my brother" or "my family".

Darlene Gijuminag belongs to the Gesgapegiag Mi'kmaq community on the Atlantic coast. The Mi'kmaq word gave its name to the river Cascapédia, meaning "strong current" or "place where the river becomes wider". It is the place where the singer-songwriter and percussionist Darlene Gijuminag was born. At the age of seven, she heard the legendary Buffy Sainte-Marie sing. Since then, she has also devoted her life to music, whilst being intensively occupied with the traditions and spirituality of Mi'kmaq culture. Online, Darlene Gijuminag describes her education as follows: "Down the beach, by the river, in the woods." Studies: "Native American University of Mother Earth". This fits the Mi'kmaq world view that honours the living spirit of all things and is close to nature and creation. It is a way of life in which humanity is not the measure of all things, but an integral part of the world. Gratitude plays an important role.

Darlene Gijuminag has consented to perform a one-off moon ritual in the city of the Maneblussers. She will be accompanied by Kiya Tabassian (setar) and Hamin Honari (percussion). Obviously, the ritual will be held on a Mo(o)nday.

Online post by Darlene Gijuminag on 6 April 2022:

Weli'esitpug. Good Morning.
This morning I woke up. Lol
First Step Na right.
To Wake Up?!?!
Every Morning before the
Sun make its way.
I lay in my bed, and feel out
these Moods of my
Physical-Self, Ag
my Emotional-Self will
play out my Day.

I Love how these
things come in
Full Circle for Me.
It's allows my Heart
to settle in its
Place where I know
Where I am.
Who I am.
What I am.
When I became I am,
Ag Why I am this
way I am.

Since becoming here at
my temporary Nesting Place.
I'm able to Re-Connect those
damn DOTS that helps
make Me the way I am
supposed to be Right.

Never mind.
YouDoYouBou!
Because this is
who I'm doing it
for Me, Ag the
People who happens
to be around Me.

After all...
It is My Moment of Healing.
It's Cracks Me up at times
When I thought I was
wasting stuck time feelings in
Grieving, Ag Mourning
from all these hardAss
Lessons in my DAR Life.
When in Reality. I wasn't
Stuck at all.
I was actually being Molded,
Ag Molding into this
Person here now at the moment.
This Person who I was
Meant To Be.
Ag Fuk I Love Me.

I'm so glad I met These
Amazing Women here
where I am.
I've been searching for a
place like where I am for a
long while, Ag now I'm here.

My ArtsieFartsie Heart-Self is back
to where I belong.
Lol. I wrote a song about a
Place Where I Belong.
Now I can complete
My song.

Have a Great Day.

Dar

Wela'lin,Ag Gesalul

Biographies

Kiya Tabassian

A setar virtuoso and an acclaimed composer, Kiya Tabassian has performed on stages throughout the world with his ensemble Constantinople. He collaborated as a composer, performer and improviser with Radio-Canada, the international MediMus-es project, the Atlas Ensemble (Holland), the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, and the European Broadcasting Union. Since 2017, he is Associate Artist at the prestigious Rencontres musicales de Conques festival where he presented Constantinople's most recent creations. Kiya was a member of the Conseil des arts de Montréal for seven years, serving as chair of the music decision-making committee for three years, and is now a Board member of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. He co-founded the Centre des musiciens du monde in Montreal in 2017, for which he serves as Artistic Director. His artistic projects and creations have received the support of the Arts Councils in Quebec and Canada for years.

Darlene Gijuminag

"My music is about life, Mother Earth. And Mother Earth and life is about people." Singer-songwriter and percussionist Darlene Gijuminag was born on October 11, 1971 in Gesgapegiag. She experienced a pivotal moment in her life that would mark the beginning of her deep love of music when, at the age of seven, she first heard Buffy Sainte-Marie sing. Music is an integral part of the culture she inherited, and Darlene delights in teaching her community's youth about the traditions and spirituality inherent in the Mi'kmaq culture. She is an avid outdoor enthusiast, with a connection to nature that continually inspires her music.

Hamin Honari

Hamin Honari is a Iranian-Canadian hand drummer who has specialized on the Persian hand drums Tombak & Daf. He has focused on adapting his drumming style and technique to accommodate many different genres of music. He has performed with the Dastan Ensemble, one of Iran's most well-known Persian classical music ensembles and has accompanied many amazing musicians and singers such as Salar Aghili, Parissa, Hossein Omoumi, Hossein Behroozinia, Saeed Farajpouri, and Itamar Erez. Hamin has been teaching for over 10 years and is working on creating his own courses for Tombak and Daf.

Cultural Centre Mechelen



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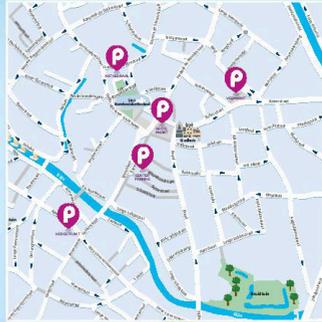
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