

This Week at the Canada Pavilion

This week: Enjoy the music of Ceilidh Friends, a four-person folk group from Yellowknife; don't miss a unique opportunity to listen to Aboriginal storytelling with Shannon Thunderbird from Victoria; fall under the spell of storyteller Matthew Nuquingaq, Inuit performer from Iqaluit, Nunavut; the Association for Electronic Music (aemusic) with International Trade Canada is organizing a Canadian Electronic Music trade mission; check out the cool vibes of Ontario's DJ Gerald Bélanger, a member of a dynamic arts collective called nice + smooth ultramedia; and, the Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport) will stop by the Canada Pavilion during his four-day trade mission to Japan.

For more information on these activities or to request an interview with any of the participants, please contact the Communications team at the Canada Pavilion at 0561 64 5788. Media can also contact us by e-mail at info@expo2005canada.gc.ca.

Performing on the Global Common 2 Stage

July 2, 3: **Ceilidh Friends (2:30 pm)**

The Ceilidh Friends, named after the social gathering featuring music and dance at which they met, is a four-voice group from the Northwest Territories that performs traditional, modern and northern folk songs. Renowned for their intricate close-knit harmonies either *a cappella* or with a varied instrumental accompaniment, they have performed at folk festivals across Canada and in the United States. Enjoy this unique taste of northern culture! For more information, please visit www.celtarctic.com/ceilidh_friends_main.htm.

July 4-5-6-7: **Shannon Thunderbird (2:30 pm)**

Shannon is a member of the Gisbutwada (Orca) clan of the Tsimshian people. An Aboriginal singer, storyteller, poet, speaker and educator from Victoria, British Columbia, Shannon re-tells the history, culture and spirituality of First Nations people with great wisdom. She captures her audiences through her passionate stories and native songs, delivering the universal messages of harmony, equality, dignity and respect for mankind. Shannon will be performing with Sandy Horne, renowned bassist with the Canadian rock band, "The Spoons". Be sure to catch this truly Canadian act as they continue to wow Expo audiences.

July 4: **DJ Gerald Bélanger (11:00 am)**

Producer, broadcaster, DJ, and label-owner Gerald Bélanger has been active in the electronic music scene since 1990. Fusing his love for experimental sounds with his passion for dance music, this Ontario native has worked as a DJ at festivals throughout North America and central Europe infecting his audiences with a highly charged blend of futuristic house, broken beats, drum 'n' bass and eclectic freestyle grooves. DJ Gerald will be presenting his Multimedia presentation and DJ set to Expo visitors as part of the

Canadian Electronic Music Mission. For more information, please visit www.nicesmooth.com.

July 8: Fidigital (2:30 pm)

Fidigital is a Vancouver-based independent band combining jazz, electronica, and pop into new forms of dance music. Producer/remixer Keith Gillard and vocalist Ryan Slemko have been making music together since 1999 and regularly work with a cast of talented electronic and jazz musicians from Vancouver and all over the world to create progressive, unique, and ultimately catchy pop music. Fidigital has released two albums and two EPs to date, reaching # 1 on the Canadian national electronic album charts in 2002. In 2004, Fidigital won the Canadian Independent Music Award for Favourite Electronic Artist/ Group. Fidigital will be performing for Expo visitors as part of the Canadian Electronic Music Mission. For more information, please visit www.fidigital.com.

July 9-10: Matthew Nuqingaq (1:00 pm)

Matthew Nuqingaq is an Inuit performer and artist from Iqaluit, Nunavut. A singer, drummer and storyteller, Matthew is also well known for his incredible silver jewelry, which will be displayed at the Takashimaya Nagoya department store from July 6-12 as part of the Canada Pavilion's Aboriginal Jewelry Event. Don't miss this unique chance to get to know Nunavut, Canada's newest territory, as Matthew Nuqingaq performs for Expo visitors.

Visiting this Week in the Manulife VIP Lounge of the Canada Pavilion

July 4: Canadian Electronic Music Trade Mission

Organized by the Association for Electronic Music (aemusic) and International Trade Canada, this event will feature a series of discussions and meetings in order to further stimulate international trade and recognition for Canadian electronic music product in Japan. This mission will bring together leading Canadian and Japanese music entrepreneurs. For more information, please visit www.aemusic.com.

July 8: Visit by the Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport)

The Honourable Stephen Owen, federal Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport) will stop by the Canada Pavilion during a four-day trade mission to Japan. For more information, please visit http://www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/min_sport/index_e.cfm.

Coming next week at the Canada Pavilion: Enjoy the storytelling magic of Matthew Nuqingaq; enjoy a performance by Ottawa Suzuki Music Exchange Students; set your eyes on beautiful samples of Aboriginal jewellery at an event hosted by International Trade Canada; learn about sister cities Kamloops, British Columbia and Uji in the Canada Pavilion's Manulife VIP Lounge and take in a performance by the Kamloops Pipe Band & Dancers.

**For more information, visit the Canada Pavilion Web site at
www.expo2005canada.gc.ca**

Did you know...

The Canada Pavilion welcomed its 1.5-millionth visitor on June 24th, reaching its initial overall objective for the entire six-month duration of the fair at the mid-way point of Expo 2005!