

Too much music this holiday

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Juno-nominated Vancouver quintet Mother Mother will perform at the free Canada Day concert on Alderney Landing in Dartmouth.

THE FREE CANADA DAY concert at Alderney Landing on Sunday has one of the more eclectic lineups of any of these shows in recent years, but darned if I don't like all of these bands and wish I could clone myself so I could be on the Dartmouth waterfront as well as in Canso at the Stan Rogers Folk Festival.

Photo

Not that it won't be great hearing the story songs of Stan's son **Nathan Rogers** and **Ron Hynes**, **Juice Newton's** timeless earworm Queen of Hearts (originally penned by Emmylou Harris pedal steel player Hank DeVito) and the festival's final mainstage set by the unstoppable **Matt Andersen**. But Halifax is getting a pretty good show in the bargain, even if it doesn't feature Canada Day mainstay Joel Plaskett, who's bringing some Emergency cheer to Fredericton on Sunday after winging his way back from Fort McMurray.

Topping the holiday bill on Alderney Landing is Juno-nominated Vancouver quintet **Mother Mother**, an endearingly quirky act led by siblings Ryan and Molly Guldemon. Drawing on a day-glo vein of glam, new wave and electronic pop, they sound like a cargo cult raised on a steady diet of David Bowie and Talking Heads records before being let loose in civilization.

Their new album *The Sticks* isn't due out until September, but you can stream their previous three releases for free at mothermothersite.com (<http://mothermothersite.com>) and make your plans accordingly.

The rest of Sunday's free show is a healthy assortment of East Coast acts, including P.E.I. singer-songwriter **Tim Chaisson** and his band **Morning Fold**, the super-positive sound of **SoHo Ghetto**, and mighty guitar/drum duo **Town Heroes**. The bill was also recently expanded to include rising Halifax/St. Lucia hip-hop/R&B performer **Kayo** and the non-stop electronics of **Scientists of Sound**.

There will also be free afternoon concerts on both sides of the harbour, as jazz pianist **Paul Simons** plays some Maple Leaf rags at the Sullivans Pond gazebo in Dartmouth and **Mike Cowie's Booty Boppin' Brass Band** blows the roof off the Public Gardens bandshell. Both shows start at 2 p.m.

For full details visit hrmcanadaday.ca (<http://hrmcanadaday.ca>).

Halifax has a new DIY all-ages venue called Sad Rad, named for its location above National Radiator on Young Street, famous for its cartoon logo of a depressed engine cooling system and the slogan "There's nothing so sad as a bad rad."

While a room above a radiator repair garage might seem like an odd spot for shows, the site's Tumblr page at 5820youngst.tumblr.com (<http://5820youngst.tumblr.com>) shows a lot of work has gone into spiffing the place up, and its inaugural event takes place on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. with a punk rock jamboree.

The lineup includes **Envision**, Newfoundland/Ontario band **Brutal Youth**, Kitchener/Guelph band **the Decay**, **Barlow** and a

Descendents cover band, all for a measly \$5. There's no drinking at the Sad Rad, but you can always head next door to the Lion's Head for karaoke afterwards.

Sad Rad isn't the first all-ages venue on that block; there's also the Humani-T Cafe across the street at the corner of Young and Agricola, which has a weekly open mike night Fridays at 8 p.m. with free admission and delicious gelato, among other treats.

Humani-T is expanding its repertoire next week with its first **Humanity International Film Festival** in the upstairs art gallery, with short films from all over, including the charming *The Dance* by award-winning Halifax comedian and filmmaker Pardis Parker and a hilarious confrontation between an Australian girl and fairy tale creatures in *Moving Day*.

The collection of 15 films screens twice, on Monday and Tuesday at 8 p.m., and the \$10 admission includes a free scoop of gelato (the masala chai). Visit humanitcafe.com (<http://humanitcafe.com>) for the full schedule.

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