



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

POWELL STREET FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS WITH DIYET AND CHORDOPHONE ON JULY 30TH – 31ST

Expanded festival site will include a block party on Alexander Street, interactive games in Oppenheimer Park and more food and craft vendors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Vancouver, B.C. (June 16, 2016) – The Powell Street Festival, Metro Vancouver’s longest running community arts festival and the largest event of its kind in Canada, will celebrate its 40th anniversary on July 30th and 31st, 2016 from 11:30am – 7:00pm daily. This year’s extravaganza will take place on an expanded festival site to bring attendees more of the beloved hallmarks of this unique event.

The lineup of contemporary and traditional Japanese Canadian artists includes Australian koto virtuoso **Miyama McQueen-Tokita**, Tutchone-Japanese Tlinget-Scottish folk singer **Diyet**, and the premiere of **Chordophone**, the viola-looping electronica brainchild of brothers Marcus and James Takizawa. Special events include **Lynne Kutsukake** who will read from her acclaimed book, *The Translation of Love*, and screenings of the films “*Fall Seven Times*, *Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides*” and “*Good Luck Soup*”.

The expanded festival site will be centered at **Oppenheimer Park** (400 Block, Powell Street) where festivalgoers will find the Diamond Stage children’s booth and new activities, including *The Koinobori*, an interactive installation inspired by Japanese carp streamers. Alexander Street between Dunlevy and Jackson Avenues will be home to a car-free block party, craft market, and a second performer’s stage. Returning venues include the **Firehall Arts Centre** (280 East Cordova Street), **Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall** (475 Alexander Street) and **Vancouver Buddhist Temple** (220 Jackson Avenue).

All events at the Powell Street Festival are free.

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About the Powell Street Festival Society:

The Powell Street Festival Society’s (PSFS) mission is to cultivate Japanese Canadian arts and culture to connect communities. Its main activity is producing the Powell Street Festival (PSF) in Vancouver’s historic Japanese Canadian neighbourhood, located on unceded Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations territories. In addition, PSFS engages in co-presentations with arts organizations and produces an annual season of cultural and artistic programming including ‘Spatial Poetics’ on June 25, 2016.

PSFS gratefully acknowledges the support of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Province of British Columbia, City of Vancouver, British Columbia Arts Council, Bing Thom Architects and Sunrise Foods.

For hi res photos, please visit: <http://www.powellstreetfestival.com/festival2016/media/>

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