



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

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## For Immediate Release

Vancouver, B.C. (June 12, 2018) - The Powell Street Festival, the largest Japanese Canadian festival in the country, will return for its 42<sup>nd</sup> year on Saturday, August 4 & Sunday, August 5, 2017 from 11:30am - 7:00pm daily. The festival is centered at Oppenheimer Park (400 Block, Powell Street) and surrounding streets (Jackson and Dunlevy Avenues, Alexander Street) and venues - the **Firehall Arts Centre** (280 East Cordova Street), **Centre A** (268 Keefer Street), **Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall** (475 Alexander Street) and **Vancouver Buddhist Temple** (220 Jackson Avenue).

This year's lineup of performers features a wide variety of local and international talent. One of the many musical highlights is virtuoso percussionist **Tatsuya Nakatani**, who, along with the Nakatani Gong Orchestra (a 14-person gong ensemble), kicks off his B.C. tour at the festival. Other international guests include sadgrrlrocker **Emma Lee Toyoda** and the experimental musical duo **Kamura Obscura**. **Katari Taiko**, **Kaya Kurz**, and **The Sakura Singers** are just a few of the local festival favourites returning this year.

Works from acclaimed visual artists **Chiharu Mizukawa** and **Nao Uda** will be on display at the Centre A gallery in its new location at 268 Keefer Street. The exhibition will feature Chiharu's stunningly detailed paintings made using only water, paper, and fire. Nao's artwork will include photographs of Japanese Canadian history in Canada and an interactive installation piece called "316 Powell Street." Shaped as a map of the historic Japanese Canadian neighbourhood, "316 Powell Street" invites viewers to write their memories on cards to insert into pockets on the map.

Other special events include a presentation on Asian fetishism by writer and performance artist **Sophia Akiko Stephens**, and a Japanese Canadian young actors forum hosted by the Hapa-palooza festival. The panel will include Vancouver's **Koyu Rankin** known for his breakout role as Atari in Wes Anderson's "Isle of Dogs".

Literary events will include presentations by writer and manga translator **Zack Davisson**, novelist, poet, and playwright **Terry Watada**, and Vancouver's own **Soramaru Takayama**.

Guests can enjoy the festival's interactive installations, children's activities, craft market, martial arts demonstrations, amateur sumo tournament, historical walking tours, tea ceremonies, ikebana and bonsai demonstrations, and delicious Japanese cuisine from over twenty food vendors.

All events at the Powell Street Festival are free.

For press materials please visit:

<http://www.powellstreetfestival.com/festival/media>



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#### **About Powell Street Festival Society**

[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. In addition to the festival, PSFS engages in co-presentations with arts organizations and produce an annual season of cultural and artistic programming.

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