



Fact Sheet

What is the Toronto Songwriters' Festival?

An annual two-day acoustic festival, featuring the original compositions of some of our top homegrown talent. Saturday night's event is for adult music lovers and Sunday's afternoon event is for young music aficionados and their families and friends (you'll be amazed at the talent of these young songwriters and performers!).

All proceeds go toward educating poor children in Laos and India, through www.jaideechildrensfund.org. The event includes a ten-minute documentary that shows how last year's festival made a difference for children, and a silent auction (Saturday) where you can shop for exotic gifts, such as handwoven silk scarves from Laos. Not to mention the cool door prizes!

To create the festival, JDCF partners with Songwriter's Unite!—a collective of over 400 songwriters run by Russell Leon and SASS Canada (School Alliance of Student Songwriters) run by Dale Russell (Songwriter and Lead Guitarist of The Guess Who, 1983-2000) and Artemis Chartier (high school teacher and singer-songwriter).

Where is it?

Hugh's Room, a famous music and dinner venue at Bloor and Dundas West in Toronto (a five-minute walk from the Dundas West subway station), 2261 Dundas St. West, Toronto, (416) 531-6604.

When & How Much?

Saturday October 13, 8pm till late: \$25 advance/\$27 door
Sunday October 14, 11am till 3pm: \$10 advance/\$12 door

Tickets can be purchased directly from Hugh's Room (416) 531-6604.

*Please note that seating is limited to 200 people for both events.

Who?

Saturday Night: Joshua Bartholomew, Kat Goldman, Andy Carey, Tucker Finn, MEAStars, Peter Verity, and the lively Russell Leon Band

Sunday Afternoon: (featuring young performers): Lindsay Broughton, Joey and Cierra MacDonald, Lindsay Regan, Justin Bridgemohan and Tafar-I Davis. A guest appearance will be made by Dale Russell and Artemis Chartier. A choir will perform a folk song and a percussion performance.

For full artist bios drop by:

www.torontosongwritersfestival.com/artists.html

What Next?

In late December, two of Jai Dee (Good Heart) Children's Fund's directors will go to Laos, then India, to oversee this year's projects. The directors pay their own airfare, out of pocket. Pictures of the children and the projects will be posted on JDCF's website, so donors and festival patrons can follow along and see the results of their generosity (last year's pictures are currently posted).

What does “Jai Dee” mean?

In Laos and Thailand, if someone tells you that you have “jai dee,” it means you have a “good heart.” This is considered of great importance. We felt our charity should encapsulate this quality and share it with children everywhere. We created Jai Dee (Good Heart) Children’s Fund with the belief that it takes very little to make a big difference as long as you go forward with “jai dee.”

About Jai Dee (Good Heart) Children’s Fund

Jai Dee (Good Heart) Children’s Fund is a Toronto-based charity that helps children rise above poverty through education in developing countries at the grassroots level. It is run by a Toronto couple who decided to start it after visiting a kindergarten school in Laos and realizing how little it would take to make a difference. In Thailand and Laos, to have “jai dee” means to have a good heart. For more information please visit www.jaideechildrensfund.org.

Is JDCF a Registered Charity?

We are incorporated as a charity in Ontario, however we are still going through the lengthy process of becoming a registered charity with Revenue Canada. This means we are currently unable to issue official charity receipts for donations.

About Songwriters Unite!

Songwriters Unite! is a collective of 400 songwriters run by Russell Leon. Leon is a music teacher and a musician, who heads up an eponymous band. He has been a performer since age 8, and now teaches music to grades 1 – 6. He also leads two children’s choirs and teaches music part-time at the Institute of Child Studies at OISE. www.songwritersunite.com.

About SASS Canada

SASS Canada was founded in 2003 by Dale Russell (Songwriter and Lead Guitarist of The Guess Who, 1983-2000) and Artemis Chartier (singer-songwriter and high school teacher) to enable young people to express their thoughts and feelings in a safe environment, to learn valuable musical and literacy skills, to develop their creativity, to build an artistic network to benefit each member personally, and carry on the tradition of great Canadian writers. www.sasscanada.net
