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Contact: Micheline Shoebridge, Co-Executive Director
819 210 9766 | michelineshoebridge@masconline.ca



MASC launches online arts programming for schools and communities

MASC launches today a series of online programs in five artistic disciplines in response to limitations set by COVID-19. MASC will offer a full array of interactive live performances - including musical performances from the Juno award-winning **Twin Flames** and Juno-nominated **Chris McKhool** - and workshops to ensure that schools and communities continue to have access to professional artistic experiences. Offerings from MASC artists will continue to grow in the coming weeks.

"Now, more than ever, students, adults, and seniors need access to cultural and artistic experiences that enrich their lives in meaningful ways and incite creativity. We aim to offer high-quality online programming with some of the best artists in the city," says **Micheline Shoebridge, MASC Co-Executive Director**.

"We feel it's essential that MASC finds new ways to keep our artists connected with the schools and with our community. When we come out the other side of this, we want to make sure our artists are still working as artists and that our communities are still strong, connected and creative," says **Wendy Hartley, MASC Co-Executive Director**.

Due to school strikes and closures caused by COVID-19, over 500 MASC bookings were cancelled for this season. MASC was able to pay their artists 50% of their fees for these cancellations. Now with this new online programming, MASC will continue to offer professional local artists paid work to sustain their artistic practice during the pandemic and promote creativity and innovation throughout the National Capital Region. Here are some of the performances and workshops currently being offered:

PERFORMANCES

Music

Twin Flames: Sharing Stories of Unbreakable
Spirits (English/French)
Chris McKhool: Earth, Seas and Air

WORKSHOPS

Dance

Métis Jigging with Brad Lafortune (English/French)
Afro-Caribbean Dance with Suzan Richards
Lavertu (English/French)

Visual Arts

Unique Colouring Creations with Claudia Salguero

Drama

Ottawa Children's Theatre offers three workshops:
Improvisation; Acting Skills (English/French) and Acting Up (English/French)

Literary Arts

Songwriters Unite! with Just Jamaal the Poet
Amanda West Lewis offers two workshops:
Young Poets and Starting with Pictures: Writing Original Characters
An Author Reading: Conflict from Both Sides

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, MASC is a charitable organization that provides annually more than 1500 performances and 800 workshops in schools and community settings as well as hosting special events. Working with more than 200 professional artists, MASC offers the community experiences of artistic excellence that awaken the creative process, deepen awareness, encourage understanding and give vivid demonstration of Canada's diversity.

For more information on MASC's new online programming, please contact Micheline Shoebridge at 819 210 9766 and michelineshoebridge@masconline.ca. To book MASC for programming in your community, visit masconline.ca.

Want to learn more about MASC artists? Q&As with MASC artists are being shared on [Apt613](#) weekly.