



Calgary Folk Club: 54th Season (2025-2026)

Dalhousie Community Centre
5432 Dalhart Rd NW

CalgaryFolkClub.com

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The Once (NL) September 19, 2025



Newfoundland's highly respected and decorated indie folk collective comprising Geraldine Hollett, Andrew Dale, and Phil Churchill, **The Once** released *Out Here* in 2024, a healing, ethereal and ultimately glorious lament for humanity, perfectly attuned to this moment for a world in search of hope and solace. With deep musical roots in their province of origin, tinged with bluegrass, country and Americana, their sound is at once intimate yet expansive, soothing yet thought-provoking, familiar yet exploratory. Let them envelop you in the blanket of their natural warmth as they probe the boundaries of Canadian music in their uniquely unassuming, charming way. theonce.ca

Special Guest: Sam Steffen (AB)

It's a long, crooked road to Edmonton from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania via Boise, Idaho, but it's been the career path of choice for **Sam Steffen**, a young troubadour steeped in the old-school vibes of Woody Guthrie and early 60s Greenwich Village folk. Settle back and let Sam be your guide as he reminds you what authenticity, honesty, truth and three chords sound like. samsteffen.github.io/Music.github.io/

Rube & Rake (NL) October 03, 2025



ECMA 2022 Songwriter of the Year and 2020 Music NL Folk/Roots Artist of the Year, **Rube & Rake** enchant audiences with storytelling, intricate guitar work and rich vocal harmonies. Based in St. John's NL, the duo consisting of Josh Sandu and Andrew Laite create intimate connections with every song and performance. Following their award-winning 2017 debut *Back and Forth*, their sophomore album *Leaving With Nothing* augmented their sound with more instrumentation, pleasing time changes, and further exploration of the alchemy they had already discovered as musical collaborators and storytellers in the finest folk music tradition. rubeandrake.com

Special Guest: Jed and the Valentine (AB)

One of the hottest, fastest rising acts on the Edmonton music scene, Jonah Morris and Maria Khaner are a young duo with a refreshing, instantly accessible sound built on lush, soulful harmonies, an indefinable prairie alchemy and a warm, earthy charm that carries over to their presence on stage. **Jed and the Valentine** captured the hearts of festival audiences in Alberta and caught the attention of CKUA with their 2024 release *awake!*, filled with playlist-ready songs that on first listening are already old favourites. jedandthevalentine.com

Russell deCarle (ON) October 17, 2025



After finding fame in a previous life fronting the acclaimed, iconic country roots band *Prairie Oyster*, **Russell deCarle** found his true calling with his third solo album, *Alone in this Room* (2017). Featuring the incomparable style-master Steve Briggs on guitar, Western swing and mid-century torch song *noir* meet him crooning in the kind of late-night bar where you don't want the night to end. Reflecting on his artistic aims, he says: "I want people to be emotionally invested in these songs...if they touched audiences in some way—well, that would be the best thing that could happen." Look out for his latest release *The End of the Road* (2025). russelldecarle.com

Special Guest: Mallory Chipman Trio (AB)

Solo artist, collaborator (as one half of The Goddamsels), songwriter, arranger, producer and music scholar, Edmonton-based **Mallory Chipman** is a musician on a mission. Blessed with a multi-octave voice and the will to bend and blend genres, she is attracting so much industry and audience attention that her latest album, *Songs to a Wild God*, hit #1 on CKUA radio. mallorychipmanmusic.com

Season Passes available

Ticketing@CalgaryFolkClub.com

Current Pass Holders renew NOW

New Pass Holders renew May 1

Advance: \$325 (+GST)

Rory Makem (UK) October 31, 2025



If you think his surname has a familiar ring to it, you would be right. **Rory Makem** is a third generation son of the legendary Makem family, who would be the equivalent of royalty in Ireland if the Irish had royalty. Son of Tommy and grandson of the famous source singer Sarah Makem, he comes by his mastery of singing and playing Irish folk music honestly. That mastery extends to his prowess on guitar, banjo, mandolin and bouzouki, developed over a lifetime of honing his craft touring the English-speaking world with his father and then as a solo performer. With recording credits that include luminaries from Tom Paxton to Roger McGuinn, Rory Makem is a living treasure dedicated to keeping the traditional Irish music canon alive. rorymakem.com

Special Guest: Magnolia Buckskin (AB)

Calgary favourites **Magnolia Buckskin** (Kathy Cook, Natasha Sayer and Corry Ulan) have forged a winning combination of lush three-part harmonies, prairie roots and their original blend of indie bluegrass, folk, and acoustic pop. Switching seamlessly between guitar, banjo, mandolin, accordion and bass, years of friendship and laughter lend warmth to their shows as they support each other to confect arrangements and home-grown sounds that are genuine and refreshing. magnoliabuckskin.com

The Pairs (ON) November 14, 2025



A self-confessed hardened, grumpy Canadian music industry professional had this to say about **The Pairs**. "Something happens every time I've been lucky enough to see **The Pairs** perform. A change comes over us all – a change you can see, and feel: Smiles spread across faces; eyes widen; ears perk up; and bodies swoon. Every time." The thing is, it's true. Classically trained vocalists with sibling harmonies, personal warmth and diamond-sharp arrangements, charming, disarming, genuine and dripping with talent, this trio ensemble is at the forefront not just of folk, but of Canadian music. Tell your mother, as they say on the radio. thepairsmusic.com

Special Guest: Moranz & Fremlin (AB)

Ryland Moranz and Dan Fremlin teamed up in 2023 through their shared reverence for stripped down, traditional bluegrass and old timey music. Precise, intimate and haunting, their sound transports you to a time and place uncomplicated by sound effects and technical tricks. What you get instead is the mandolin mastery of Fremlin and Moranz's authentic vocals, guitar and clawhammer banjo. They also pitch themselves as a live act with minimal allergies. rylandmoranz.com/moranzampersandfremlin

Royal Wood (SK) November 28, 2025



Long-listed for a 2024 Best Folk Album GRAMMY® for his album *What Tomorrow Brings*, **Royal Wood** is hitting full stride as one of Canada's foremost artists and producers. An iTunes Songwriter of the Year with over 15 million streams worldwide and high profile placements in shows such as *Grey's Anatomy*, he has headlined shows at Toronto's legendary Massey Hall, among other internationally renowned venues. His recent transition to marriage and raising a family prompted him to reflect that his writing now comes from a more vulnerable place, a change in circumstances that has also seen him relocate from Ontario to Saskatchewan. royalwood.ca

Special Guest: Graham Lindsey (ON)

An Ottawa-based composer who writes jigs, reels and other traditional Celtic musical forms, **Graham Lindsey** brings his tunes to life with his multi-instrumental talents on mandolin, tenor banjo and guitar. A highly regarded and sought-after presence on the Canadian folk scene, he is one of the very few musicians who can claim to have had his music played by the Peace Tower Carillon, 53 bells that serenade Ottawa from Parliament Hill. grahamlindsey.com

Experience this unique listening room

Doors open: 7pm

Concerts start: 7:30 pm

OVER SIDE — Winter Concerts (Jan–Apr)



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The Janzen Boys (MB) January 16, 2026



A big hit at the club when they played a short set in November, 2024, **The Janzen Boys** return to entertain us with their signature harmonies, family fun and feel-good vibes. Expect the Winnipeg-based brothers Simon and Mick, along with their dad JJ, to share

loads of laughs and charming banter when they're not delivering seamless, dreamy vocal arrangements backed by guitar, bass and mandolin. They've come a long way since 2014, when they hit the road for gigs consisting of busking, farmers' markets and bars that didn't ask what pre-teen brothers were doing on stage. The road ahead looks a lot brighter without police checks in sight.

thejanzenboys.com

Special Guest: Backyard Betties (AB)

Club regulars and founders of the WriteOn program, Nancy LaBerge and Pip Hazell front Calgary's respected acoustic ensemble, **Backyard Betties**. Featuring three-part female vocals and Nancy's impressive songwriting chops, the band has built a growing following in recent years playing North American venues and festivals. Prestigious recognition includes the People's Choice Award at the Edinburgh Folk Club's 47th Annual Songwriting Competition. backyardbetties.ca

Irish Mythen (PE)..... February 6, 2026



Fearless, irreverent, irrepressible, incendiary, unforgettable. Adjectives exhaust themselves trying to keep up with the phenomenal **Irish Mythen** (they/them). Based in PEI since 2007, this truly global artist forms instant audience connections from stages as far flung as Glastonbury, Charlottetown and the Sydney Opera House. **Irish Mythen** deservedly won the CFMA's 2020 Solo Artist of the Year

category on the strength of barnstorming performances consisting exclusively of one voice and one guitar. As Lisa Schwartz of the Philadelphia Folk Festival aptly put it, **Irish Mythen** is a force of nature and a gift from Almighty Herself.

irishmythen.com

Special Guest: Inn Echo (PE)

Inn Echo confirms Prince Edward Island's reputation as ground zero for Celtic fusion, weaving traditional tunes with contemporary originals and sophisticated arrangements that will have you catching your breath, tapping your feet and grinning from ear to ear. From Music PEI awards to tours of Austria and Ireland, **Inn Echo** is a trio to watch as they emerge as the island's finest export since potatoes. innechomusic.com

Cara Luft (MB) February 20, 2026



Steeped in the Calgary folk scene from birth but long since based in Winnipeg, **Cara Luft** brings her new trio to the CFC. Her inspired collaborative projects (*The Wailin' Jennys* and *Small Glories*) and equally inspired solo work have established

her as a folk icon. *Lonesome Highway* put it best: "Cara has a spirit that drives her to connect with people, and for this she is loved everywhere she goes. Reviewers of her live shows talk about her compelling vocals, superb musicianship, humorous anecdotes, accomplished songwriting, ability to switch between styles and the charm of her stage presence...honesty, integrity, personality and spontaneity permeates both her music and her live shows." caraluft.com

Special Guest: The Doggone Brothers Band (BC)

This Kootenay-based Canadiana-Americana duo features Clayton Parsons (banjo, guitar, dobro) and Michael Hephner (mandolin, octave mandolin, guitar). Entertaining and uplifting, the twosome joke that their crossover bluegrass vibe sounds grassy at a folk-fest and folky at a grass-fest. Their brand new release, *Hard Luck Livin'* (2025), is proudly original and helmed by David Travers-Smith. doggonebrothers.com

Suzie Vinnick (ON) March 6, 2026



Originally from Saskatoon but now based in the Niagara area, powerhouse blues vocals and dazzling, multi-instrumental talent continue to earn **Suzie Vinnick** glowing reviews from her peers to complement shelving units that overflow with her laurels, including 11 Maple Blues Awards and a CFMA for Contemporary Vocalist. With an impressive range and a voice you never get tired of hearing (to quote the *Winnipeg Free Press*), she finally makes her long-awaited

debut at the Calgary Folk Club. To truly appreciate Suzie's effortless ability to bridge roots, blues, funk and jazz idioms, catch her breakout release *Shake the Love Around* (2018).

suzievinnick.com

Special Guest: Von Bieker (AB)

Last year was something of a breakout year for Edmonton's **Von Bieker** with the release of his album *DUMB HOPE*, which attracted widespread critical attention and radio airplay across Canada, especially on CBC, CJSR and CKUA. Thoughtful, guitar-driven indie folk-rock songs that stand up to close listening is the hallmark of his work. It's little surprise that he made both the Edmonton Journal and CKUA lists of best albums for 2024.

vonbieker.com

DOUBLE BILL March 20, 2026 Noah Zacharin (ON)



Poet, songwriter and a fingerstyle guitarist's guitarist, **Noah Zacharin** flies under the commercial radar but has long been revered by music insiders, quietly plying his trade as a gigging musician when he isn't pursuing academic and literary pursuits at his off-grid cabin in

Ontario. Without resorting to gimmicks or flashy licks, his music is the distillation of a lifetime of skill, dedication and quality, brilliantly showcased in his 2023 album *Points of Light*.

noahsong.com

Terra Spencer (NS)



When Paul McCartney and Elvis Costello are fans of Ron Sexsmith and he is a fan of hers, you know all about the esteem **Terra Spencer** commands among elite songwriters. And like only the very best, she has the knack of making it all seem effortless. Her transition from a

career as a funeral director in Nova Scotia to pursue music full time was galvanized by the success of her acclaimed song *Bricks and Mortar*, a transcendent, moving lament that turns a demolished factory into a metaphor for lost love. Matt Andersen calls her "friggin' wicked" and David Francey, yet another fan, says hers is a soul "as beautiful as her melodies would imply." terraspencer.ca

Dave Gunning (NS) April 17, 2026



The pride of Pictou County, NS and one of the most beloved artists on the Canadian folk scene, **Dave Gunning** was inspired to become a folkie after seeing Stan Rogers and John Allan Cameron perform a double bill in 1981. 44 years and dozens of national and international music awards later, he continues to burnish his reputation with each passing album and tour. Drawing inspiration from his deep roots in the

rhythms of rural Nova Scotia and a profound ability to communicate empathy in timeless anthems like *These Hands* (winner of the 2014 Great American Song Contest), Gunning is joined by his son Jud for a generational passing of the torch. davegunning.com

Special Guest: Jud Gunning (NS)

Jud Gunning is carving out an independent identity for himself at an early age on the Nova Scotia music scene; appearances to date include the Stan Rogers Folk Festival, Pictou Lobster Carnival and the New Glasgow Jubilee. With influences and repertoire ranging from Doc Watson to Buddy Holly to Stompin' Tom Connors, discerning musical taste and pedigree are matched only by his devotion to mastering his craft in a career that is only just beginning. judgunning.com