

Request to Appear as a Delegation

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Name of Delegation: Inlet Theatre Music Series
Name of Primary Contact Person: Darlene Cooper
Name(s) of Delegation Member(s) in Attendance: Darlene Cooper Bill Sample
Purpose of Delegation: To propose a yearly music series at the Inlet Theatre from September to May with support of Port Moody City and community as an initiative of the "City of the Arts"
Details of Request: We would like to start a ticketed series of music concerts (6 - 9) between Sept and May each year and supported by Port Moody City as part of a the "City of the Arts" initiative - a community initiative. Due to the loss of the Gallery Bistro to a fire a couple of years ago, there is a lack of music venues for concerts in Port Moody. The Inlet Theatre is a beautiful space and would be a great place to host concerts for the Port Moody and Tri-cities communities. Having a great venue close to home for music patrons would be a a great cultural boost for our community and help support the tagline phrase for Port Moody ("City of the Arts") Our request from City Council is to approve support of such an endeavor in the following forms: 1. Promotion of the concerts via city websites, newsletters, etc. 2. Use of the Box Office and Port Moody city ticketing platform 3. Waive the rental fees - ticket sales would bring in funds to pay artists and the sound and tech crew as well as front of house. 4. Include the series as a community arts initiative. We hope to make this a subscription series and look for other sponsors in the area as well.
Additional Information in Support of Request: As seasoned professional musicians who have been in the Vancouver area music community for 40 years, we have great connections to many wonderful musicians. Bill was the musical director for the David Foster band for 8 years and has been active in the Vancouver scene as a 'go to' pianist/musical director. As a singer/composer/conductor, I have organized many concerts throughout the years. I also served as a college music program director. We moved to Port Moody 4 years ago and would love to see music become an integral part of the community. We have the support of Helen Daniels (who owned the Gallery Bistro) and George Balzer (Summer Sunday concerts at Rocky Point).

Proposal for Music Series at Inlet Theatre in Port Moody 'City of the Arts'

Port Moody has a number of arts initiatives in visual art and dance, however, there is no ongoing city-supported music project except the Summer concert series organized by George Balzer. One of the only venues for live music was the Gallery Bistro (serving as an outlet for visual arts and writers as well) which burned down a couple of years ago. This left a great hole in the music and arts community of Port Moody...particularly for musicians and music lovers.

We are proposing the creation of a yearly 6 – 9 concert music series at the Inlet Theatre starting officially in September 2022. The Inlet Theatre is a beautiful space with full sound system and lighting and would make a great music venue for the Tri-Cities community. This would be a ticketed series with prices starting at \$25 per person plus service fees. If provincial health guidelines allow full capacity, we would also like to start with a couple of 'teaser' concerts in the Spring of 2022.

We are proposing that this series be **supported by the city** in the way of:

1. Waiving the rental fees
2. Promoting the concerts and series via City newsletters and emails and putting up posters
3. Use of Box office and Port Moody ticketing platform.
4. As a "City of the Arts" initiative

Revenue for the artists, tech and front of house would come from ticket sales. To help with building the series and helping it stay financially viable, we are looking at the potential of creating 'subscribers' or sponsors in the form of donors (either 'friends' of the Inlet Theatre Music Series, or development or film companies in Port Moody, or perhaps the support of some businesses). We are not planning to get a liquor license as we have great breweries, pubs, restaurants in the area that could benefit from patrons going out before or after the concert. We would like to support the local businesses.

As seasoned musicians in the Vancouver area, we have connections and access to many great (world class) artists. Some possible names we would bring in are:

Shari Ulrich Band

Jane Mortiffee Band

Norm Foote (great family music show)

Jodi Proznick (wonderful jazz artist from Port Coquitlam)

Marcus Mosely and the Marcus Mosely Ensemble

Paul Pigat

Tom Keenlyside Quartet

The Sojourners

Dawn Pemberton Band

Laila Biali (Toronto jazz/pop artist) ... just to name a very few

Received at the December 7, 2021 Council meeting

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We have met with **Helen Daniels** (former owner of Gallery Bistro and long time arts promoter in Port Moody), **George Balzer** (Summer Concert Series @ Rocky Point Park stage) and **Devin Jain** who are all very supportive of this idea and are willing to help.

Here is a little background on us so you know what our experience is. We moved into Port Moody 4 years ago and are a husband and wife team.

Darlene Cooper – singer/song writer/arranger/conductor/music educator/church music director

I am a singer (mostly jazz, soul, Gospel). My husband, Bill Sample, and I co-write and arrange music for our band, "Wild Blue Herons". In addition, I have been choral director for the Marcus Mosely Chorale for the past 8 years and Bill has been the musical director and we write and arrange music for the choir as well. As a music educator, I developed, designed and directed the college music program (Institute of Music Ministry at Pacific Life Bible College, Surrey, BC) which trained musicians specifically for music in church gatherings but also in the mainstream music. I have a lot of experience in organizing concerts as I have planned student recitals for 40 years, church music services, my own concerts, and I was part of a group who brought in artists from around the world for the 2010 Olympics. We ran 20 venues and I booked the artists for each venue during that time.

Bill Sample – pianist/composer/arranger/producer/music director

Bill has been a professional musician for over 40 years. He was the music director for the David Foster band for 8 years and played with artists such as Ray Charles, Celine Dion, Kenny Loggins, Peter Cetera, Bryan Adams ... just to name a few. In 2003, he was inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame and continues to be a first call pianist and musical director. He is currently playing with the R&B All Stars as well as the Wild Blue Herons as well as recording and producing.

To find out more about us:

<https://www.wildblueherons.com/>