

Friday, November 4th, 2022

GATHERING SESSIONS

**Gathering Session 5:** 3:30-4:45 p.m. (for all) Huron Grand Ballroom 1-4

### **Twin Flames & Ontario Provincial Honour Band**



Building bridges across cultures, continents, and styles, Twin Flames brings together a richness of personal history and musical experience. Their songs tell stories of courage and survival written in English, Inuttitut, and French.

Multi-Award-Winning chart-topping Canadian Indigenous Duo Twin Flames are a husband-wife team made up of Jaaji, (Inuk and Mohawk) from Nunavik and Chelsey June, métis (Algonquin Cree heritage). Honouring their ancestor's history and representing their Indigenous backgrounds. Twin Flames have become a

beloved powerhouse couple.

Since joining together, both professionally and as spouses, Twin Flames have released three full-length albums and have been nominated for 29 Music awards both Nationally and abroad — including two Canadian Folk Music Award wins, and three Native American Music Award wins and most recently three wins at the Inaugural Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards. They've had two number-one hits on the Indigenous Music Countdown's Top 40 and have played more than 1000+ shows throughout Canada, Greenland, the United States, Australia, France and the Cayman Islands.

The duo was selected as artist-in-residence for the 2019 Folk Alliance International conference and partnered with UNESCO to write Human the official song to celebrate 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. Human was also a part of CBC's Music Class Challenge in 2020.

Twin Flames have written songs for musicals which include the theme song Dreamer used for The Dream Catchers musical with the TD Confederation Centre Young Company; most recently Twin Flames wrote a full musical for Sheridan college titled "In Darkness Show me the Stars" performed by the fourth-year students.

Their music video for Broke Down Ski'tuuq was the first Inuttitut music video to be featured on MuchMusic and their songs have been featured in movies and television series such as CBC's Tallboyz, Trouble in the Garden, David Suzuki's Nature of things; Trapped in a Human Zoo and The Documentary Okpik's Dream to name a few. Their music videos "Taanisi" and "Porchlight" were chosen among the films screened at the INDIANER INUIT: DAS NORDAMERIKA FILMFESTIVAL, in Stuttgart, Germany January 2018.

Jaaji and Chelsey's passions include working with youth and inspiring them to dream without limitations. They are founders of Twin Flames - Sharing Stories of Unbreakable Spirits presentations which take them across the country and the Arctic sharing music and cultural awareness workshops and songwriting workshops in schools. Their goal is to give back to communities. They hope to encourage youth to be change makers. They share cultural knowledge with non-indigenous youth to

help them discover Indigenous and Inuit cultures through music. Twin Flames are advocates for mental health, suicide prevention and healthy lifestyles.



The Ontario Band Association presents the Ontario Provincial Honour Band, an ensemble made up of 90 of the province's best high school musicians, who are selected to take part in an intensive four days of music making. Participants began their experience at the Salvation Army Shoreline Camp in Jackson's Point, and worked with their sensational guest conductor Dr. Gillian MacKay, from the University of Toronto, to prepare a challenging set of repertoire. The band then took their program on tour, performing at various high schools en route to

Collingwood. Their exciting experience culminates with their performance today at the OMEA's Elevate 2022 Conference. The group is very excited to perform for you today! Enjoy!



Gillian MacKay is Professor of Music of the University of Toronto, where she conducts the Wind Ensemble and teaches conducting. Gillian has an active professional career as a conductor, adjudicator, clinician, and trumpeter. She has conducted honour ensembles throughout Canada and the United States, and is Associate Conductor of the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra. Dr. MacKay has adjudicated Canadian band festivals at local, provincial, and national levels in Canada. She has conducted honour bands and judged competitions in the US, Singapore, Thailand, and Korea. Gillian holds degrees and diplomas from the University of Lethbridge, McGill University, the University of Calgary, and

Northwestern University.