

2007 CUPE National Convention Toronto

# CULTURAL PROGRAM

## CONVENTION HALL

Every morning in the Convention Hall delegates will be serenaded by an assortment of highly talented and energetic artists, showcasing the diversity of Toronto and CUPE!

## WELCOME DELEGATE RECEPTION

### SUNDAY

#### 8:00 p.m. – Quintessential Boys

The Quintessential Boys is a 4-piece jazz combo made up of very talented teen players from the Toronto area. Their talent, sound and soul belie their age. Each member has been performing for audiences for at least the past five years. QB members have performed at the Toronto Jazz Festival, Beaches Jazz Festival, Partis Gras at the Distillery District, Markham Jazz Festival, Unionville Concert Series, at Caribbean Jazz Festivals and at numerous other festivals, jazz clubs and private functions.

The Quintessential Boys is the group to watch as they garner extraordinary attention every time they perform. Their debut CD about to be released, entitled *Under Age*, is a delicious range of jazz with hints of Caribbean, soul, Latin and funk. The group features the impressive talents of Quincy Bullen on piano, Lucian Gray on bass, Omar Gittens on drums and Rob Christian on sax and flute. [www.quintessentialboys.com](http://www.quintessentialboys.com)



### MONDAY

#### 9:00 a.m. – Spirit Wind

The name Spirit Wind represents the importance for giving thanks for our breath. Multi-talented artists, singers, song-writers and dancers Tania Cordoba, Nancy Johnson and Michele Perpaul come together to share Native traditional and social hand-drum songs through stories, drum, voice and shakers. This style of singing brings women from all over Turtle Island together and offers them an opportunity to practice Native spirituality in traditional as well as non-traditional settings. Women's hand-drum social singing is a relatively new tradition, however the drum itself has been acknowledged as the heartbeat of Mother Earth since time immemorial. The drumbeat reminds of our relationship and connection to Creation. <http://spiritwindmusic.com>

# EQUALITY FORUM

## MONDAY

8:00 p.m. – Room 718 B

### *The Triple Truth*, by Turtle Gals Performance Ensemble

This year's Equality Forum includes the thought provoking and inspiring work of the Turtle Gals Performance Ensemble's play *The Triple Truth*. The Turtle Gals, founded in 1999 by Jani Lauzon, Monique Mojica and Michelle St. John, aims to produce a repertoire of original, collectively created ensemble performances that reclaim art, history and cultural identity while envisioning a vital future of hope and possibility for Aboriginal peoples. *The Triple Truth* is a play performed through story, song and movement. With humour and poignancy, *The Triple Truth* explores Aboriginal people at work in North America, from pre-contact sustainable economies to Columbus through to the present day contemporary ways we strive to re-build our economic stability and sovereignty. The Turtle Gals' performance will mesmerize you and leave you wanting more! [www.turtlegals.com](http://www.turtlegals.com)



photo: Jerrold Litwinenko - Photosapience.com

## MONDAY

1:30 p.m. – Samba Elégua

Samba Elégua's draws on elements of Brazil's samba tradition. This large youth led percussion group also plays original beats, unites audiences and communities, empowers cooperative musical learning, and brings rump-shaking funk to the streets! This entire project is a people-powered collaboration that'll have you on your feet and whistling, clapping and stomping for more! <http://myspace.com/sambaeleguatoronto>



## TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. – The Delightful Divas

The Delightful Divas are a harmonious trio of a *cappella* singers featuring African-Canadian vocalists Shelley Hamilton, Phyllis Hamilton and Tricia Williams. Their raw, melodious sounds of social justice and workers' songs are inspiring and beautiful. [www.thedelightfuldivas.ca](http://www.thedelightfuldivas.ca)

## TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

**Practice: 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.**

Level 800 of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
(same level as Convention Hall)

**Convention Choir – Room 801 A  
with Becca Whitla and you!**

Everyone is welcome to participate in the lunchtime Convention Choir led by Becca Whitla, former choir leader of the HERE Union Local 75 choir and current choir leader of the Echo Women's Choir. No experience is necessary... join in and have fun! Everyone welcome!

**Convention  
Drumming Group –  
Room 801 B  
with Muhtadi and you!**

Everyone is welcome to participate in the lunchtime Convention Drumming Group led by internationally renown drum master Muhtadi. No experience is necessary...join in and have fun! Everyone welcome! Drums will be provided.



**Performance: Friday, 9:00 a.m., Convention Hall**



# CONVENTION DANCE

## TUESDAY

9:00 p.m. – Swamperella

Swamperella is a Toronto based Cajun band in its 10th year of popularity. Spicy, melancholy, toe tapping, sexy, the Swamperella experience defies listeners to stay seated! Swamperella's expression of music is deeply rooted in Cajun tradition and the band's original material attests to a profound understanding of and connection to the 'Louisiana sound.' This band has played a

myriad of venues and whether the show is in a barn in Gaspé, Quebec for the 400th anniversary of Acadian history, or at Brock University performing with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra, Swamperella rocks! And people respond! The music is infectious and the Swamperella approach is to pull out all the stops. The old fashioned waltzes drive forward in pulsating rhythm, the plaintive vocal harmonies wrap the listener in a haunting reminiscence, the washboard grooves get everyone moving and those that still won't dance find themselves clapping along and hollering.

Swamperella is a five-piece band made up of: lead fiddler, vocalist and washboard player Sooz Schlanger, on button accordion, fiddle and vocals Peter Jellard, guitarist, Conny Nowe, bassist, Rachel Melas and percussionist, Dave Pontello. Swamperella has released 2 CD's and are working on a 3rd. [www.swamperella.com](http://www.swamperella.com)

## TUESDAY

1:30 p.m. – Autorickshaw

Autorickshaw's music lies on the cultural cutting edge, as contemporary jazz and funk easily rub shoulders with the classical and popular music of India. Formed in 2003, Autorickshaw has swiftly risen to become one of the most intriguing acts on the world music and jazz landscapes, garnering a 2004 JUNO nomination for World Music Album of the Year, and winning a Canadian Independent Music Award in 2005.

The ensemble consists of a mash-up of four of Canada's most exciting and musically interesting young musicians: vocalist Suba Sankaran, tabla player Ed Hanley, bassist Rich Brown and percussionist Patrick Graham. [www.autorickshaw.ca](http://www.autorickshaw.ca)



## WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. – Kevin Barrett Group

"Insouciantly slinky" is what Katie Malloch [JazzBeat/CBC] calls Kevin Barrett's guitar playing. Kevin has been recording and performing as a freelance guitarist in Toronto for more than 20 years. He has released two CD's: Kevin Barrett Trio: JAM (1999) and Kevin Barrett Group: *Share the Wealth* (2002) which have received considerable local and national airplay. Kevin has performed in jazz festivals, clubs and concert venues across the country, while maintaining a continuous presence on the Toronto scene. [www.kevinbarrettgroup.com](http://www.kevinbarrettgroup.com)

# GLOBAL JUSTICE FORUM

## WEDNESDAY

8:00 p.m. – Room 718 B  
Naila Keleta Mae

The 2007 Global Justice Forum will feature the work of Naila Keleta Mae This artist raises provocative questions about cultural domination. In particular Mae questions society's censorship of black power, feminist and white privilege in art, education and scholarship.



## WEDNESDAY

### 1:30 p.m. – Raging Asian Women

Raging Asian Women will set your heart pounding! RAW is a diverse collective of East and South-East Asian women

carrying on the North American taiko drumming tradition and promoting social justice while making music. They are activists, cultural workers, dancers, writers, teachers, rock climbers, artists, mothers, community workers, and academics. They integrate rhythm and movement to show a powerful expression of Their unique experiences as Asian-Canadian women. RAW believes in the power of collective creation and collaboration, and are continually working to develop innovative artistic ideas. [www.ragingasianwomen.ca](http://www.ragingasianwomen.ca)

## THURSDAY

### 9:00 a.m. – La Libertad



La Libertad began performing together for a Canadian Council of Refugees event in 2000. They have developed a unique combination of North American labour music and songs from the Latin American solidarity movement – e.g. songs commemorating Oscar Romero of El Salvador. La Libertad is

comprised of Alfredo Barahona (vocals, guitar and marimba), Neil Gardiner (keyboard, accordion and vocals), Mike Skinner (flute, tenor sax and soprano sax), Marnie Niemi (double bass, guitar and vocals) and Brenda Wall (vocals). They are often heard singing at union conventions, rallies and other social justice events.



## THURSDAY

### 1:30 p.m. – Break Syndical

For a few years now, Pierre Fournier and the Break Syndical Group are active in popular and labour movements. Union Break Syndical is the voice of the unheard; it is a rallying cry; the live memory of fights; the song of battle; of victories and hope. Break Syndical is part of a social movement that is fighting and gets involved to transform society. In a world where material things have more value than humans, the songs will reverse the trend. [www.breaksyndical.org](http://www.breaksyndical.org)

## THURSDAY

### 8:00 p.m. – Room 718 – CUPE Cabaret

Come to an evening of theatre, song, drumming, visual art and other forms of creative expression. CUPE's cabaret will showcase professional and home-grown CUPE talent. This is a chance to relax and have fun while also learning through example how CUPE activists can use the language or arts and culture to get our union's messages out to wide and diverse audiences. Free admission and a cash bar.

## FRIDAY

### 9:00 a.m. – Convention Choir and Drumming Group

Hear your sisters and brothers who took part in the drumming group and convention choir as they show off their talents!

# TRAVELLING EXHIBITS

## by the Workers, Arts and Heritage Centre

Look out for these enlightening and thoughtful exhibits in the Gallery Area, put together by the Workers' Arts and Heritage Centre in Hamilton. [www.wahc-museum.ca](http://www.wahc-museum.ca)

– A Century of Women and Work  
This exhibit of artwork by 10 contemporary women artists documents the last 10 decades of women and work.

– “...and still I rise” *A History of African Canadian Workers in Ontario, 1900 to Present*

The fascinating yet little told story of the lives and experiences of African Canadians is the basis of this travelling exhibit. The exhibit helps us learn more about the culture, struggles, and achievements of Ontario's Black community.

The cultural program was organized and coordinated by Florencia Berinstein of the Mayworks Festival in Toronto, [www.mayworks.ca](http://www.mayworks.ca), CUPE Local 1281.

For the duration of this program, all musicians are members of the Toronto Musicians Association, AFM Local 149.

For more information on any of these artists, or to contact them, check out their websites!