

Call to Musicians
City of St. Catharines Performance Opportunities
Summer Concert Series

Each year the City of St. Catharines presents a variety of live music programming at Market Square, Montebello Park and other park settings to provide community members with free outdoor music experiences. These concerts bring alive our parks and green spaces, enhance our farmers market and add vitality to the urban areas of downtown throughout the summer.

At this time the City of St. Catharines invites all musicians to submit their interest via application to the **City of St. Catharines Open Call for Musicians**. Submissions from original and cover recording artists are welcome.

Applicants after 2016 do not need to re-apply – please contact us (by phone #905-688-5601 ext. 1516 or email: bwilson@stcatharines.ca if you wish to update your application information.

Descriptions of Venues and Anticipated Nature of Programming

Free community concerts in **Montebello Park** have been a mainstay in downtown St. Catharines to as far back as 1904. Happening from 7pm – 9pm, attendees often bring a picnic and blanket and sit in the park, or get up and dance the evening away. Performances in Montebello Park can take place in the pavilion, band shell or on a portable stage, under cover and which have access to power. Lakeside Park is also potential location for performances. These venues can accommodate small to large acts, and is ideally suited for entertainment that appeals to family audiences and has a larger audience draw.

The City's musical entertainment at **Market Square** takes place while local farmers offer goods for sale on Saturday at lunchtime from 11am – 1:30pm. The Market Square stage is open to the elements and is 10' x 12', and can accommodate solo and small acts. The environment is casual, and folk, light rock or country music can all be successful at this venue as crowds tend to wander by or enjoy the music while eating lunch from the Market's vendors.

Performers are required to bring their own sound equipment to all venues. All equipment must meet CSA standards/certifications and be in good working condition. Please consider equipment rental fees that would be needed for the venues and include these in your expected compensation as required.

Compensation

The City is committed to compensating musicians for their services at a fair and equitable rate. Professional status, number of musician per act and experience of the performers will be taken into consideration during negotiations.

Costs for travel, transportation, accommodation, equipment rentals, meals or any other expenses are the responsibility of the artist and should be considered during negotiations. Successful applicants will be allowed to sell band merchandise (CDs, DVDs, etc) at the event if they so choose. The City is not responsible for any damage to the entertainer's equipment or merchandise.

Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit a package containing the following items to be considered:

- Completed submission form - attached to this document
- Sample of performance: CD or DVD, with minimum of 3 songs in one of the following formats: .mp3 or .wav
- Sample of support materials such as posters, reviews, website links etc. (optional)

All applicants to this call will be considered for all venues described above. The Selection Committee reserves the right to offer dates to all, some, or none of the applicants and the number of performances are at the discretion of the City.

Selection Criteria

All applications will be evaluated by a selection team made up of City staff and community members knowledgeable about local music. The following criteria will be used to determine programming:

- Musicianship and quality
- Appropriateness to the venue/s program goals and character
- Performance must be age-appropriate and suitable for a public setting
- Band's past community concert experience
- Band's ability to draw an audience to the performance

**Deadline for Submissions:
Ongoing**

Hard Copy Submission Instructions

All hard copy submissions are to be delivered via mail, courier or in person to:

Parks, Recreation and Culture Services
Attention: Community & Events Coordinator
P.O. Box 3012, 50 Church Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7C2

Please note on the front of the envelope or package: "Call for Musicians."

Electronic Submission Instructions

Email submissions will be accepted at bwilson@stcatharines.ca Please attach application form and samples of performances directly to the email. Preferred formats for music samples are .mp3 or .wav and if using hyperlinks please make sure they are active. A digital photo of the performer or act would be beneficial to include for promotional opportunities if selected.

Online submissions will be accepted at www.stcatharines.ca/callforartists Please upload your performance samples in either .mp3, .wma, .wav, or .mov format.

Notice to Applicants

The City of St. Catharines would like to thank all artists for their submissions. Please be advised that only successful candidates will be contacted. **Submission materials will not be returned, and are preferred electronically when ever possible.**

Please note: The City will not be responsible for electronic submissions that are not received due to technology malfunctions (e.g. file sizes, systems crash, incompatible software, etc).

All applicants will receive a confirmation email that their submission was received.

Conditions of Entry:

1. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a selection committee consisting of city staff and community members knowledgeable about local music. Applicants will be kept on file in a database for future use. Please note that programming can take place throughout the year, and the files used for consideration to unique and new opportunities. Applications will be kept on file for use in the future.
2. Inclusion in the concert series may involve your band being photographed. Images will be used for promotional purposes (may include social media) and will be preserved for administration, program development and archival purposes.

3. All equipment, including musical instruments and sound equipment (e.g. band microphones, monitors, speakers and/or soundboard, etc.) must be supplied by the artist. All equipment must meet CSA standards/certifications and be in good working condition. The City is not responsible for any damage to the entertainer's equipment.
4. All artists will be compensated for their services. The City reserves the right to offer a rate based on budget availability and will take into consideration the number of musicians per act and professional status.
5. The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications and shall not be bound to accept any of them, and reserves the right at any time to cancel all or any part of the concert series or the Call to Artists.
6. Cancellations: If the event is canceled and the performer is notified (by phone to the contact number on the application, including voice mail messages) within 2 hours of the event start time, the performer/s will be paid 50% of the negotiated artist fee. If cancellation is less than 2 hours prior to start time, the artist will be paid 100% of negotiated fees.

For More Information Contact:

Brianne Wilson
Community & Events Coordinator
City of St. Catharines
Parks, Recreation and Culture Services
Phone: 905-688-5600 ext. 1516
Email: bwilson@stcatharines.ca