



10am – 12pm, April 29, 2023
SFU Downtown, Concourse Centre
Wosk Dialogue Centre
580 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC

Opening of *explorAsian* Festival 2023

The Opening Ceremony for the 2023 *explorAsian* Festival takes place April 29 at 10am. Celebrate the initiation of the pan-AsianCanadian arts and cultural festival that honours Vancouver Asian Heritage Month in May, *explorAsian* Festival. Speakers, exhibits, entertainment and light refreshments will feature at SFU downtown, the Concourse Centre in the Wosk Dialogue Centre at 580 West Hastings Street.

Our opening ceremony marks the beginning of **Asian Heritage Month in May** in Canada and the United States. Produced by the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society, *explorAsian* Festival is the collaboration of arts and culture in the Lower Mainland to hold events, exhibits, screenings and presentations live and online during the month of May, showcasing pan-AsianCanadian arts, culture and history in our society.

Performances will be given by Vince Mai, writer of the VAHMS theme song, with Noriko Kobayashi and Kage; and Mozaico Flamenco Dancers.

The composer of the VAHMS theme, **Vince Mai**, is an active composer for film and TV. As a prominent member of the music community, Vince's trumpet is featured with many local groups and on many albums including the Powder Blues, Sarah McLaughlin, and his own six solo releases.

Noriko Kobayashi is a musician/composer and ethnomusicologist, specializing in Japanese traditional music. Noriko studied drumming and shamisen in Japan with masters of festival drumming and Kabuki.

Kage has been part of Vancouver's Taiko community since the 1980's, co-founding several groups and collaborating with various artists over the years. They are happy to be celebrating Asian Heritage Month.

Mozaico Flamenco is an intergenerational, multicultural and LGBTQ2IA artistic circle that specializes in Flamenco dance, originally from Andalucia, Spain. Celebrating 50 years, Mozaico Flamenco was created by Oscar Nieto in Los Angeles. Today Flamenco in Vancouver is a multicultural community with singers, guitarists, percussionists and of course, vibrant flamenco dance."

The Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS) is a registered nonprofit organization on a mission to foster, promote and celebrate the arts and cultural diversity that Asian-Canadian communities bring to Canadian society. Since 1996, VAHMS has offered exceptional programming to

promote Asian Canadian arts and culture in Canadian society; create opportunities for Asian Canadians to collaborate and expand in public arts and cultural spaces.

Media Relations, VAHMS

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