



Embrace the words and
music of our living culture

NOVA SCOTIA.COM
Shaped by the Sea

Nova Scotia's diverse cultural tapestry and numerous live performance venues have combined to create a vibrant music scene encompassing everything from Celtic Folk Music, Acadian and Aboriginal roots music, to country, hip hop, pop and rock.

There are as many different ways to soak up a memorable music experience here as there are varieties of music. Annual festivals like the Celtic Colours International Festival and the TD Canada Trust Atlantic Jazz Festival put local and international stars in the spotlight. Big and small stage productions like DRUM! - a rhythmic extravaganza celebrating our four founding cultures of Aboriginal, Acadian, Black, and Celtic - are found in every corner of the province. Legendary kitchen parties and Ceilidhs are where musicians like Natalie MacMaster, the Rankins, Gordie Sampson and the Barra MacNeils honed their skills while friends and family danced to their jigs and reels. Take a Halifax tour of the pub and club scene and you'll find the venues where many big names like Sloan, Joel Plaskett and Juno-nominated alternative rocker Matt Mays got their start, with crowds of die-hard fans singing along. Halifax is also the site of major music happenings, having hosted the Junos, the Rolling Stones, Sir Paul McCartney, KISS and many more!

Music Nova Scotia works to foster, develop and promote the full potential of the music industry in Nova Scotia. This non-profit member services association is devoted to advancing the careers of music industry professionals in songwriting, publishing, live performance, representation, production and distribution, and to help ensure that Nova Scotian musicians are heard on the world stage. The association also promotes Nova Scotian music at major music conferences and festivals such as Canadian Music Week and the East Coast Music Awards (ECMA). Music Nova Scotia's biggest event is Nova Scotia Music Week; four jam-packed days of performances, workshops and a Gala Awards Show, held every November in a Nova Scotian community. For up-to-date music listings in Nova Scotia, check the website www.musicnovascotia.ca



Cape Breton Island offers a chance to truly explore Celtic culture and history. There is a saying common here: *Ciad mile failte*. It means “a hundred thousand welcomes” and is typical of the warm greeting the island’s visitors can expect. To truly experience the Celtic culture, you’ll want to visit:

- **The Gaelic College of Arts and Crafts** is where you will find students of all ages from around the corner and around the world who travel here to study programs in traditional Scottish disciplines including Gaelic language and song, music, dance and crafts.
- The **Highland Village** is a living history museum and cultural centre that celebrates the Gaelic experience in Nova Scotia.
- Sign up for a one-day step-dancing workshop or a week-long fiddling course at the **Celtic Music Interpretive Centre**
- Take in one of the hundreds of events, activities, concerts, workshops, tours and dances during the **Celtic Colours International Festival** held for 10 days annually each October.
- Visit **Feis an Eilein** on Christmas Island and take in the traditional milling frolic held the third Thursday in August as it has been for more than 70 years.
- Enjoy tasty eats and musical treats nightly at **The Red Shoe Pub** in Mabou, home of The Rankin Family.



Off island, you can also get a taste of our Scottish ancestry in Antigonish with an Immersion Weekend at **St. Francis Xavier University** with programs for children and adults. Or take an a traditional kitchen party hosted by the **Antigonish Ceilidh Association** every other Saturday afternoon year round at Piper’s Pub.



Take in a **traditional square dance** ... there’s one to be found around the Cape Breton Island on any given night: Local favourites include:

- West Mabou Sports Club - the biggest (and some say best) dance on the island, this one runs all year long on Saturday nights featuring both indoor and outdoor dance floors
- Glencoe Mills Hall - with a new dance floor to spruce up the historic hall, this lively dance was once the regular gig of hometown fiddler Buddy MacMaster.
- St. Joseph’s Parish Hall, Southwest Margaree - this adults-only shindig has been around forever!
- Brook Village Parish Hall - this adults-only dance runs every Monday night for those who want to start the week off right.
- The Barn at the Normaway Inn, Margaree Valley - a ceilidh kicks off the evening at 8 pm with a 3-fiddler competition followed by the square dance at 10 pm.
- Scottsville - Located in the Lake Ainslie Community Hall, this adults-only dance is also on the north east side of Lake Ainslie itself

We’ve got contemporary and classic theatre on stage in Halifax’s acclaimed **Neptune Theatre**. Our small town intimate theatres spaces like Liverpool’s Astor, Chester’s Playhouse, Annapolis Royal’s King’s Theatre, Glace Bay’s Savoy and the revamped ferryboat-theatre, MV Kipawo in Parrsboro, put you smack-dab in the centre of the scene.

On top of the daily culture on tap, there’s dozens of annual festivals and concerts celebrating everything from blues to pop and theatre from fringe to classic Acadian plays. East year brings the **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo**, **Stan Rogers Folk Festival**, **Deep Roots Music Festival**, **Atlantic Fringe Festival**, **Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival**, **New Glasgow’s Riverfront Music Jubilee** and more to dozens of stages, concert halls and impromptu performance venues all across the province.

