



Discover The Incredible and Diverse Music That Defines Us!

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. Legendary Cape Breton Island 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 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 both hosted the Junos and the Rolling Stones in 2006.

Annual festivals like the Celtic Colours International Festival and the TD Canada Trust Atlantic Jazz Festival put local and international stars in the spotlight. Halifax hosts big stage productions like DRUM! a rhythmic extravaganza celebrating our four founding cultures – Aboriginal, Acadian, Black, and Celtic.

Cape Breton Island, in particular, 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 want to visit:

- **The Gaelic College of Arts and Crafts** (www.gaeliccollege.edu) 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** (www.museum.gov.ns.ca/hv) 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** (www.celticmusicns.com)
- 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** (www.feisaneilein.ca) 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.

You can also do an Immersion Weekend at **St. Francis Xavier University** (www.stfx.ca) with programs for children and adults. Or take an a traditional kitchen party, also known as a **Ceilidh**, every other Saturday at Piper's Pub in Antigonish (www.antigonishceilidhs.com). Enjoy tasty eats and musical treats nightly at **The Red Shoe Pub** in Mabou (www.redshoepub.com), home of The Rankin Family.