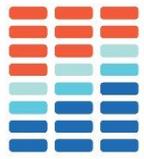




INDEPENDENT MUSIC PUBLISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL FORUM



# Music Publishers Canada Éditeurs de Musique au Canada

Brussels, Toronto, October 24, 2022

## **IMPF partners with Music Publishers Canada to promote international songwriter and publisher relations**

### **Canadian and Nordic artists to build key creative partnerships over three-day song writing camp in Toronto**

IMPF has formed a partnership with Music Publishers Canada to host an in-person co-writing camp promoting publisher and songwriter collaboration between Canada and the Nordic territories.

Titled *CREATE Nordic Bridges*, the song writing camp will take place at Noble Street Studios in Toronto, Canada from October 27 – October 29, 2022.

It will bring together a total of 12 songwriters, producers and artists from Canada, Estonia, Finland, and Sweden to co-write over the three-day period, producing original songs and building key creative partnerships in the process. See below for biographies.

The attendees are represented by a number of well-known independent publishers including Faar Music, Elements Music, RoastingHouse, Editions Bjorlund, Hyvetown Music Inc., Red Brick Songs, Sound of Pop Publishing, Daytripper Songs, Third Side Music, and Cymba Music.

**IMPF President Annette Barrett said:** “IMPF is a global network of independent publishers and it’s great to be able to provide these cross-border channels to promote publisher networking and emerging artist creativity. It is a pleasure to work with Music Publishers Canada in what we hope will be the first of many such exchanges over the coming years.”

**Margaret McGuffin, CEO of Music Publishers Canada said:** “Building creative and business relationships is an important part of what makes Canadian music publishing a global success story. We’re delighted to partner with IMPF to welcome Nordic writers, producers, and publishers to Toronto. The partnership will allow us to continue playing a role in forging relationships all over the world and showcase Canadian talent.”

Create Nordic Bridges is generously supported by FACTOR and the Government of Canada and co-funded by the European Union.

## **Karl Killing**

Producer

Publisher: Faar Music

Karl Killing, a mere 20 years old, has immensely proven himself over the past few years in the Estonian music scene. He is actively working with many loved Estonian hip-hop and rap artists such as 5MIINUST, säm, Pluuto, nublu and villemdrillem.

This year Karl participated in the Eesti Laul contest (Estonia's national selection for the Eurovision Song Contest) where he placed 7th with his song 'Kiss Me'. His solo project kick-started in 2020 when he released his debut single 'High Heels', which came out with Canadian record label found/red. This year was massive for Karl as he signed to Warner Music Baltics, released a video single 'powerless' with them, and intends to release his first album in 2022. While his solo project is on the softer, pop side, for his producing he definitely has a weakness for hip-hop.

## **Gevin Niglas**

Producer

Publisher: Elements Music

Gevin has worked with pretty much every significant and chart-topping Estonian artist there is, and he is a go-to producer for the top artists signed to majors in Estonia and Finland. Countless local No.1s. He has recently been working on exciting international material for UK and US artists. Recent co-writes include: Philip Strand (Tungevaag, Icona Pop, Cheat Codes), Coucheron, Sara Ryan (Glockenbach, Malou Prytz, Anis don Demina), MOLLI (Topic, A7S, Lost Frequencies) and artists like Hastings (signed to Elektra US), Maryon (US), Katie Kittermaster (UK), Klara Hammarström (SWE), Tungevaag (NO) and Keelan Donovan (US)

## **Jay Birch (Johan Björk)**

Topliner/Producer

Publisher: RoastingHouse SE

Johan Björk works out of RoastingHouse Studio 7 and has many international cuts under his belt. "I am a self-taught musician, songwriter, producer and remixer based in Malmö, Sweden. My main instrument is piano which I started playing at around age 7, and then I have also added guitar and bass to my arsenal. Although my main genre has always been soul, funk and RnB, the style of music doesn't really matter to me. It just has to have some kind of groove or vibe. To evoke some kind of emotion in the listener, whether that is just to make you feel good and wanna dance or to feel something deeper. " - Johan

## **Sara Ryan**

Topliner

Publisher: Elements Music

Sara is a super versatile and creative writer and she has a lot of experience from being successful with mainstream pop, K-pop, Eurovision, working with DJs, metal bands, and she already has a couple of cool hits on her CV with artists like Anis Don Demina and with her own project SaRaha. Sara also has a couple of upcoming major K-Pop releases on their way.

Recently she has been working with some of Europe's most successful writers for different projects in various genres and songs written by her always get a lot of attention from people around the world. Recent projects

Sara has written for: Glockenbach, Hayden James, Robert Gillies, Yei Gonzalez, Andreas Johnson, Theoz, John Lundvik, Malou Prytz, Cyan Kicks, Tiesto, Kiara Nelson.

## **Zara Lundh**

Artist

Publisher: RoastingHouse SE

I am a 22-year-old Spanish / Swedish artist from Eslöv. Born in Gran Canaria, I started singing before I could talk, because I wanted to hang out with my dad when he played guitar and sang. The love for music did not stop there so when we moved to Sweden started taking choir and dance lessons, and then also music lessons. I got into everything that was called music and realized how much I loved to perform.

After school I always went home singing songs I had come up with, and started playing the piano and writing them down when I was twelve. Inspired by pop stars like Demi Lovato, Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift and Julia Michaels and their way of making you feel, and at the same time wanting to dance, pop music has become my focus.

Now I work as a songwriter for RoastingHouse Music as a topliner, at the same time as I write and produce for myself for future releases.

## **SANNE (Sanne Österberg)**

Artist

Publisher: Editions Bjorlund SE

Sanne is the artist, who is the former singer in the band Sun & The Rain Men. Sun & The Rain Men was nominated for Denniz Pop Awards a couple of years ago. In the jury for the award we have names as Max Martin and Andreas Carlsson.

Now, she is planning to start up two solo projects, one in Swedish and one in English. Both the projects will have a touch of rnb & pop.

## Canadian Delegates

## **Lucas Marston**

Producer

Publisher: Hyvetown Music Inc.

Lucas Marston is a pop music & media composer and producer based in Toronto, Canada. He is a published songwriter and producer who creates full-scale pop productions for Asian markets. Lucas composes and produces music for the advertising industry on behalf of a variety of music houses around the globe providing custom productions for some of the world's largest brands. Marston has a background in jazz guitar, composition, orchestration, pop and R&B production and mixing. His aspirations are to write and produce for bigger artists, produce great works for TV/Film/Advertising, to develop new artists and carve out a place for them in popular culture.

## **Edwin Raphael (Edwin Babu)**

Topliner/Artist

Publisher: Red Brick Songs

How do you anchor yourself when occupying multiple geographic identities at once? For Edwin Raphael, the Dubai-born, Montreal-based songwriter, it requires an intentional and intensive form of world-building. By developing an unmistakable style of folk that merges Eastern scales with the Western pop canon, Raphael

reimagines his music as an exploratory tool that allows him to construct an interior and sacred home to retreat into.

Growing up in Dubai, Raphael studied classical guitar before deciding on the keys. As he developed an affinity for John Mayer and Ben Howard, he felt at odds with Dubai's distinct sense of "placelessness" — and the bewildering feeling of being immersed in a culture where everyone claimed an alternate homeland. It wasn't until he moved to Montreal to pursue a business degree that he felt a sense of stability, and became deeply entangled with the city's indie bedroom pop scene.

Where his past projects found inspiration in the metaphorical potential of water, his forthcoming album *Warm Terracotta* walks deeper into the island after standing on the shore. On Edwin Raphael's most intimate and ambitious project to date, he grapples with the realization of being a foreigner everywhere; of longing to know your ancestral roots, while also honouring the home you've built for yourself.

### **qwinn (BrittanyMcQuinn)**

Topliner

Publisher: Sound of Pop Publishing

Britt McQuinn (qwinn) is an award-winning Canadian east coast singer/songwriter. Her early musical influences of film and video game soundtracks have shaped the synth-pop sound that audiences know today.

Britt identifies as queer and a mental health advocate. She captivates crowds with magnetic, warm, and engaging stage presence.

She's opened for K.D. Lang during her 25th anniversary *ingénue* tour, Milk & Bone, Neon Dreams, and Ria Mae, between her solo act and her dark pop duo, Bleum. qwinn has songs on several spotify editorial playlists, including *It's a Bop*, *Fresh Finds Pop*, *New Music Friday Canada*, and *Bangers*. qwinn has label releases on Circus Records and Monstercat.

### **Laurent Bourque**

Topliner

Publisher: Daytripper Songs

Toronto's Laurent Bourque is an artist and songwriter whose distinct pop sensibility is best showcased on his latest single "EASY" and his recent Canadian chart-topping hit "Matador."

CBC "Q" said it best: "Very few artists can marry sounds from the past and the present and make you feel like you've come to a familiar place."

This was the goal of Laurent's 2020 album, *Blue Hour*: To create a timeless pop sound using a blend of natural and non-acoustic instruments, influenced by the spirituality of perennial prose all while exhibiting the best emotional performances possible.

As a co-writer Laurent has recently found success abroad, penning songs with Japanese artist Harumi (Sony Music Japan). Harumi's mix of pop and R'n'B vocals proved to be a perfect match for Laurent's snappy pop melodies and lyrical manner.

With a true love of collaborating, Laurent's main focus is to bring the song to the highest level it can possibly be while making sure the artist's story is told. That is what matters most.

### **Mint Simon (Michelle Bensimon)**

Artist

Publisher: Third Side Music

Mint Simon is the debut solo project of the front person of indie-pop band Caveboy. Born and raised in Montreal, Canada, Mint is a theatre kid, turned band lead, turned pop star living somewhere on the gender spectrum between Cher and Prince. This debut solo project sees Mint's new musical romance unfolding, and

their soul spilling out. The new music is a sonic and lyrical exploration on love, missed opportunities, desire and sexual liberation.

They have been featured on albums such as Bright Light Bright Lights's 'Fun City' with their song, 'It's Alright, It's Okay,' as well as multiple collaborations with Davey Oberlin's (KORN keyboardist) heavily streamed synthwave project 'All The Damn Vampires'. Their songs have been heard in: Maid (Netflix), Orange Is The New Black (Netflix), Queer As Folk, CRUSH (Hulu), The Sex Lives of College Girls (HBO), BIRKS Jewelry, The New Romantic, Killjoys, You're The Worst, Happiest Season, Jump, Darling! & many more.

### **Oleyada (Samantha Lavignasse)**

Artist

Publisher: Cymba Music

Oleyada is an indie-pop artist releasing music from her bedroom in Toronto, Canada. Oleyada released her first independent single "Pick Up the Phone", a bright and poppy diss track to your worst best-friends, in the summer of 2020. Her single "Pick Up the Phone" was a semi-finalist in Unsigned Only and earned her a spot in the 2020 Canadian Songwriter Challenge and the RBC Launchpad Music Entrepreneurship program. Oleyada then released "SO DONE!", her first song featuring Spanish language lyrics exclusively on SoundCloud, Bandcamp and Audiomack. She was also featured on and co-wrote several songs that have been released recently with The Free Label, including "Antifreeze" (April 7), "Up In Flames" (April 22) and "Toys" (Oct 7).

Since joining Cymba Music Publishing, Oleyada has already placed songs in the Canadian TV show Strays, and landed a feature placement in Workin' Moms with "Catch Me". Her most recent collaboration with the Italian production teams Axtrom and Te Pai landed "Late Nights" on Spotify's New Music Friday Canada playlist.

Oleyada's first EP is currently in the works, and she is represented worldwide exclusively by Cymba.

**IMPF (Independent Music Publishers International Forum)** is the global trade and advocacy body for independent music publishers, representing our interests internationally, sharing experiences and best practices, exchanging information on copyright and legal frameworks in different territories and jurisdictions, and helping to stimulate a more favourable business environment for artistic, cultural, and commercial diversity for songwriters, composers, and music publishers everywhere. [www.impforum.org](http://www.impforum.org)

**Music Publishers Canada (MPC)** is a non-profit membership-based organization whose mission is to create business opportunities for our members and to promote their interests and those of their song writing partners through advocacy, communication, and education. [www.musicpublisher.ca](http://www.musicpublisher.ca)



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