

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Break it Down This Weekend at the Return of Harbourfront Centre's Beats, Breaks & Culture Festival

TORONTO, ON (August 16, 2017) – Celebrating the next wave of hip-hop and electronic music, Harbourfront Centre's Beats, Breaks & Culture festival puts the spotlight on cultural innovators in genres like post-rap, electro-pop and world electronica. Taking place August 18–20, this annual festival showcases Canadian artists who are starting new movements in hip-hop and dance music.

Now in its 9th year, Beats, Breaks & Culture is one of Canada's most influential music festivals, offering key performance opportunities for artists at every stage of their careers. Experience live sets, DJs and dance performances including the new innovators of Canadian music such as:

- Toronto's synth-pop trio **Austra**, is an electronic band from Toronto, ON, Canada comprising **Katie Stelmanis** (principal songwriter), **Maya Postepski** and **Dorian Wolf**. Both the *Toronto Star* and *New York Times* included their debut album **Feel It Break** on their year-end critics' lists, with the former calling it "an outright stunner."
- **Dead Obies**, an experimental hip-hop group from Montreal who create post-rap with nouveau beats and rhymes in *français* (French and English). Their recent release *Gesamtkunstwerk* received their second long-list nomination for the Polaris Music Prize, placing them at the forefront of Quebec's rap scene.
- Melted-pop duo **Phèdre** makes music for escaping. The visually evocative soundscapes emerging on their previous releases take form like a great comic strip – a concise narrative, bright colors and psychedelic textures. Phèdre's music borrows from hip-hop, psych and high-bpm electronica to make music digestible to the age of the internet. Special guests Han Han, Lil Gae, Casey Garcia, Arowbe, and members of HATAW.
- **Rae Spoon** is an award-winning Canadian singer, multi-instrumentalist musician and writer. They meld a plethora of elements, including electronic-influenced indie rock and folk punk. Nominated for two Polaris Prizes, a MOTHA Transgender Musician of the Year Award, their live shows induce sing-alongs and danceathons.

The festival is free of charge apart from the following two ticketed and licensed late-night events (19+).

WAVES Afterparty – The (R)Evolution of the Queer Dancefloor

On Friday night, WAVES explores the ongoing evolution of the queer dancefloor, acknowledging the black and People of Colour (PoC) roots of popular genres, such as ballroom & voguing, dancehall, house, disco, techno, soca, afrobeat and hip-hop – all spun by Toronto's QTPoC dj collective, and WYZE GYAL DJs: K, okaybashe, angie la-la and frshprspctiv. This event is co-presented with WYZE GYAL and RUDE Collective.

FUTURESound Afterparty A late-night dance party on Saturday night featuring the next generation of Canadian world-electro talent, including the Toronto debut of live DJ duo **AfrotroniX**. An original creation by the famous Chadian artist Caleb Rimtobaye, this Montreal-born movement merges electronic music and African rhythms with an electro DJ, live instruments, African urban dance performances and futuristic digital art.

Also taking the stage is **Bambii**, one of Canada's most compelling new DJs. Whether online or on the dancefloor, Bambii Kirsten Azan's political and musical vernacular give credence to dance music's ever-expanding reach, the relationships it helps forge links between individuals, cultures and spaces. Opening sets by finalists from Harbourfront Centre's SHAKE THE LAKE: DJ Competition, Tzeraa and Rhea.

After-party event tickets can be purchased for [here](#). Further information on Beats, Breaks & Culture can be found on the Harbourfront Centre event website [here](#).

About Harbourfront Centre

Harbourfront Centre is a Canadian charity operating the 10 prime acres of Toronto's central waterfront. We celebrate the multiplicities of cultures that comprise Canada and enliven the city through the creative imaginations of artists from across the country and around the globe.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous funding support for programming at Harbourfront Centre by the Government of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.

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