

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY
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High Resolution photo: [Centre Rocks stage.jpg](#)

Description: The Centre Rocks program provides young local artists the opportunity to perform a paid gig in a professional venue.

Photo Credit: N/A

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Live and local, *The Centre Rocks! VIII* showcases the best of Chilliwack.

CHILLIWACK, BC – There’s no shortage of stellar talent in Chilliwack, and the latest *The Centre Rocks!* will showcase some of the city’s finest. On **March 18**, the eighth installment of the series is back in the Chilliwack Cultural Centre’s Rotary Hall Studio Theatre, this time with six more of the best up-and-coming local musical acts.

Chilliwack musician Brook Potter participated as a performer in the *Centre Rocks!* last year, and this time he’s taken on the task of curating the performers. “It was really cool,” he said. “It was probably one of the most professional settings I’ve ever played and it was really great that the Centre can put something on like this for young artists in the community.”

Potter has selected five of Chilliwack’s talented and up-and-coming acts – and he’ll be performing again as well, this time accompanied by local guitarist Brandt Fradette.

First up is **Portraits of Us**, local married duo Jason and Anna Ratzlaff. The pair are currently contestants in CBC's Searchlight 2017 competition, and are working on an eight song album. Both former solo performers, the two have joined forces to produce an acoustic-based combination of stunning harmonies and melodic arrangements. "They just started their duet together and it will be their first live performance as a couple duo," Potter said. "It's pretty exciting for them."

Another couple act, **Him and Her**, also known as Jordan and Erika Toohey will be performing as well. "They're fantastic," Potter said. "They came together and started making super cool music. It's kind of a cross between pop and electronic that they mix, and they can do it live."

It's not all duos, and singer-songwriter and phenomenal guitarist Travis Ree will be taking the stage as well, along with **Centre Rocks!** veteran Norman Price, who's folk acoustic sound Potter said is reminiscent of The Lumineers and "totally not what you'd expect. He really shocked me and that was cool."

Closing out the night is Rain August. August started developing his sounds while working in Salmon Arm, and that's slowly evolved into the passionate combination of folk, soul, R&B, jazz, and pop music that he now performs. August has already produced one solo EP *Engulf*, which showcases his natural talents as a producer and sound engineer, as well as a singer-songwriter. This will be August's second time performing his unique improv style in the Centre Rocks. "He's fantastic at guitar and his singing is amazing, and it just comes together super nice," Potter said. "He's got ideas in his head, but it's mostly all improv."

Having performed in the **Centre Rocks!** before, Potter has experienced firsthand how helpful the exposure that comes with playing local shows can be. "A lot of musicians that play, you don't really hear them or they don't have the opportunity to get lots of gigs, but there's some fantastic talent out there," he said. "It's really good for artists to get some exposure, and maybe a confidence boost too if they struggle with playing in front of people – it may give them a jump start to getting more gigs in town."

Perfect for a casual night of great local talent, *The Centre Rocks!* will once again showcase Chilliwack's best and newest musical acts in an intimate and cabaret-style setting. "It'll be a really fun, relaxing night – maybe a date night, who knows – and there's just great musicians there and great vibes," Potter said.

"We are so very fortunate to be able to produce these concerts as programmed by fantastic musicians like Brook" says Cultural Centre Artistic and Managing Director Michael Cade, "and we are doubly proud of the fact that this is a paid gig for each and every one of the performers. " The Centre Rocks is funded through the British Columbia Arts Council's Community Presenter Youth Engagement Program, which is designed to remove barriers to participation in the performing arts by young artists.

The Centre Rocks! VIII is taking over the Chilliwack Cultural Centre's Rotary Hall Studio Theatre on **March 18 at 7:00pm**. All tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Centre Box Office, by calling 604-391-SHOW(7469), or online at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca.

The Centre Rocks! VIII is sponsored by: The Chilliwack Progress, Classic Hits 89.5 the Drive, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the British Columbia Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, and the City of Chilliwack.

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For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and

is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the O'Connor Group Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 290,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding \$4,280,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts, crafts and performance studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian

charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (Charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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