

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
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High Resolution photo: [Cris Derksen.jpg](#)
Photo Description: Cris Derksen and her Cello.
Photo Credit:

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INNOVATIVE INDIGENOUS CELLIST WILL ASTOUND WITH BY DONATION SHOW

CHILLIWACK, BC - The exciting and genre-defying **Cris Derksen** will amaze you with her inventive performance, in which this young artist invigorates orchestral cello playing with world, folk, and electronica influences to produce a fascinating blend of the classical and contemporary. Cris draws great inspiration from her indigenous ancestry, and her by-donation appearance in the Cultural Centre Main Theatre on **March 16, 2014** will be an exhilarating exhibition of cultural collaboration that has something for everyone!

In addition this exciting performance will involve the local participation from the Spirit of our Communities Youth Group, part of the Aboriginal Children and Families Chiefs' Coalition.

Cris, originally from Northern Alberta, has become a rising star on the Canadian world music scene and received awards for performances that fuse her training as a classical cellist with modern technology and musical influences. The unique compositions she produces intricately braid genres and styles, using looping techniques to construct multiple layers and dimensions of sound and weaving her influences into evocative and original soundscapes.

A graduate of the University of British Columbia, Cris holds a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance and shared the title of Principle Cellist in the university's Symphony Orchestra. Her enormous talents and musical experimentation have led Cris to transcend genres and styles, and have taken her to perform in venues ranging from Canada's Symphony Halls to European fringe festivals in Italy, Norway, and the Czech Republic. This broad diversity and appeal forms the fundamental motivation behind Cris' experimentation with a classical instrument in a modern environment, as well as a desire to bring the cello into arenas in which it may have previously been unheard. "When I started this I was trying to create something with the cello that relates to people other than just classical music fans, and make the cello more relatable to people who have never experienced it before" she says. "There are many aboriginal communities where people have never heard or experienced the cello, so being an

aboriginal person I really wanted to try and bring this classical instrument into that new environment.” Cris’ vision has been a huge success, and through the combination of her classical training, musicianship, and modern slant on producing music, she has gained an eclectic fan-base and a freedom that many artists fail to achieve. She tells us, “From taking the cello and putting it into different genres I’ve found that it touches a whole bunch of different people. I have a group of aboriginal fans, a group of classical fans, and I’ve found that I’m able to fit in everywhere since I use so many different elements in my music.”

Cris’ ability to fit in such a diverse range of environments is highlighted by her eclectic touring background. Conjuring her rich tapestry of sounds for crowds at many of Canada’s culture and music festivals, she has performed at the Vancouver Island Music Festival, Vancouver Folk Music Festival, Aboriginal People’s Choice Music Awards, Salmon Arm Roots and Blues, the 2010 Cultural Olympiad, and more locally at the Harrison Festival. As an artist trained to perform in orchestras and at formal events, Cris relishes the opportunity to perform in the “far more liberated and down to earth environment of festivals”, capitalising on this freedom to bring cultural and artistic elements into her performance. This has become an integral part of Cris’ live show, and her incorporation of diverse elements such as dance and art transforms her performances into a truly unique cultural experience. Her appearance at the Cultural Centre will be alive with this adventurous artistic essence, and featured alongside Cris will be dancers who express the emotion and spirit of her music through the traditional dance of the people of the plains: “I think that the dancers really deepen

the performance, and give it an element of spirituality as well.” She also thinks that featuring the dancers is important in making it more commonplace for non-aboriginal people to experience aboriginal culture. “I want to bring my culture to people, and make it something that isn’t just seen from afar!”

Cris’ ability to cross boundaries in her art, music, and appeal is reflected by the diverse environments in which she has brought her sound to life, and the range of audiences that have been fascinated by her approach that blends traditional and emerging styles into a distinctive sound to call her own. Come and be captivated by a totally unique musical and cultural experience when **Cris Derksen** comes to the Cultural Centre on **March 16, 2014**.

This is a by donation event, and guests can name their price upon entry to enjoy this extraordinary young artist. All proceeds will go towards helping the Cultural Centre continue to bring such creative performances to Chilliwack. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW(7469) or visit www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca to book tickets!

Cris Derksen is generously sponsored by Myriad Information Technology, Department of Canadian Heritage, City of Chilliwack, British Columbia Arts Council and The Province of British Columbia.

Additional Information

[RED: A Haida Manga, by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas](#)

[Pow.Wow.Wow - Cris Derksen](#)

<http://music.cbc.ca/#/artists/cris-derksen>

Artist Profile on CBC Music

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 Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 150,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding 2,000,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association and The Chilliwack Players Guild as partners.

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 and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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