

Friday
APR 11
7:30 pm

Digging Roots

Juno Award-winning band blending folk, roots, blues and Indigenous musical styles



This event is presented in association with the KU Powwow & Indigenous Cultures Festival. Learn more about the festival's activities and events on Saturday, April 12, at powwow.ku.edu.

This performance is funded, in part, by:

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Expect rock-concert sound levels at this performance. To accommodate individual listening needs, ear plugs are available at the Audience Services Desk in the lobby before and during the show.

There will be no intermission during this performance.

WINNER OF THE 2023 JUNO AWARD FOR CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS GROUP OF THE YEAR

Digging Roots breathes life into songs from their land, Turtle Island, to raise their voices in solidarity with a global chorus of Indigenous artists, activists and change-makers.

For over a decade, two-time Juno Award-winning Digging Roots has traveled the world with a joyful message of resistance, celebrating Anishinaabe and Onkwehón:we traditions of round dance and interconnectedness. As *Roots Music Canada* says, the band is "...badass, empowering and hopeful all at the same time."

Digging Roots takes you on a journey through tall grasses, sweet waters and into a joyous and powerful celebration of music. Their fourth album, *Zhawenim*, is the Anishinaabemowin translation of "unconditional love." Led by the electrifying current of husband-and-wife team, ShoShona Kish and Raven Kanatakta, the six-piece band responds to a majestic and spiritual call from ShoShona's earthy vocals and Raven's exhilarating guitar mastery through a fusion of Turtle Island blues, soul and rock 'n' roll. For long time fans or new audiences, their constantly evolving live show opens a space, wherever they may be in the world, for healing, compassion, unconditional love and Baamaadziwin (the good life). Constantly interweaving between drum culture and guitar dialects, Raven and ShoShona were raised in cultural families that have continued to resist oppression and colonialism.

More than a band, Digging Roots has taken its place at the frontline of the fight for equity and representation in the arts, with involvement in industry advocacy and organization to empower arts communities worldwide. ShoShona is the founder of the International Indigenous Music Summit and the music label Ishkōdé Records.

Raven, who studied at Berklee College of Music, shares of his upbringing, "I grew up in a small Anishinaabe Rez called Winneway in Northwestern Quebec. It's formally called Long Point First Nation. It's where my grandfather and father taught me to hunt, trap and fish. I also spent my summers on my mother's Mohawk Rez of Kahanawà:ke" ShoShona is Anishinaabekwe, and her family is from Batchewana and part of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge.

Digging Roots has completed multiple tours in Australia, U.S., Mexico, Norway, England, France and in almost every corner of Canada. Highlights include performances at the Glastonbury Festival (England), the Sydney Opera House (Australia), Byron Bay Bluesfest (Australia), Woodford Folk Festival (Australia), Philadelphia Folk Festival (U.S.) and Edmonton Folk Festival (Canada), including a performance with Motown's the Funk Brothers. They have participated in showcases in Australia, U.S., Mexico, England, France, Ireland, Finland and Canada.