



STRATFORD AMPLIFIES ITS WINTER MUSIC SCENE WITH 14 DYNAMIC POP-UP PERFORMANCES

For Immediate Release: November 25, 2025

(Stratford, ON) Building on the momentum of the successful 2025 Summer and Fall Music Pop-Up Program, Destination Stratford is excited to announce the selection of 14 dynamic experiences for the 2025/26 Winter Music Pop-Up Program. These innovative projects, created in partnership with local businesses, organizations, and musicians, will introduce fresh winter music experiences that energize the city throughout the colder months.

Initiated in 2023 as a strategic extension of the [Lights On Stratford Winter Festival of Lights](#), the Winter Music Pop-Up Program will resume this season to help foster an expanded range of cultural and musical programming throughout Stratford.

The 14 successful recipients include:

- **Black Swan Brewery – Slow Sundays** | Beginning January 2026: relaxed Sunday afternoons with acoustic sets, local musicians, and small-batch brews.

- **Bluebird Restaurant – Sunday Sessions** | Local favourites The Bookends perform Sunday afternoons, creating a lively neighbourhood hangout in the front window.
- **The Bunker – Songs & Stories Night** | Songs and Stories event featuring Rag and Bones Collective.
- **Foster’s Inn – Dinner Concert Series** | A prix-fixe dinner paired with intimate performances by Canadian musicians
- **On Stage Dance Studio – Winter’s Light** | A New Year performance of poetry, dance, and music, centred around a participatory Tree of Tomorrow installation.
- **The Lost Key Speakeasy – Live Jazz** | Offering live jazz performances in an intimate speakeasy setting.
- **revel – Radiance: Harp & Poetry** | A quiet, intimate performance blending spoken word by Heidi Sander and harp by Elysha Vorstenbosch during Lights On’s opening night.
- **Riverwalk Commons – Christmas at Riverwalk Commons** | An evening of jazz, 80s hits, ballads, and holiday classics with Emm Gryner and Jaron Camp.
- **The Starlight – Queer Music Bingo** | A new winter series blending music-themed bingo, community connection, and a dance party, running four times from December to March.
- **SpringWorks~PuppetWorks!** | A whimsical puppet performance that promises to enchant viewers of all ages with its playful characters and heartfelt creativity.
- **Stratford Country Club – Social Sundays** | Monthly Sunday gatherings starting January 2026, featuring live music at 53 North Restaurant.
- **Stratford Perth Museum – Chalet Shakedown** | An après-ski themed winter night with live music from Mutual Mind, hot-chocolate cocktails, and a cozy outdoor fire pit.
- **Stratford Public Library – Holiday Happy Hour** | An after-hours holiday singalong with live music, cookies, and a hot chocolate bar.
- **The Stratford Symphony Orchestra & Stratford Concert Choir – Handel’s Messiah** | A full performance featuring Stratford’s concert choir and symphony orchestra.
- *The above performances are subject to change*

The Winter Music Pop-Up Program received applications for musical performances taking place from **December through March**. Destination Stratford encouraged proposals that showcased innovation, collaboration, and community spirit. Selected businesses and organizations will receive funding of \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 to support their music experiences.

“These 14 creative pop-up musical experiences showcase our incredible local artists and venues during the winter months,” says Zac Gribble, Executive Director of Destination Stratford and Festival Director of Lights On Stratford. *“We’re proud to support these performances that help reinforce Stratford’s reputation as a year-round cultural destination.”*

The Winter Music Pop-Up adds a vibrant layer to Stratford’s cultural scene while supporting Destination Stratford’s newest initiative, which highlights and energizes [Stratford After Dark](#) experiences that keep the city buzzing throughout the year.

Stratford [Winter Music Pop-Ups](#) will be shared on Destination Stratford's [event calendar](#) and social media platforms.

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For more information, please email hello@visitstratford.ca.