

Calgary music festivals hit high note on ticket sales

Last Updated: Monday, July 20, 2009 | 4:03 PM MT [Comments4](#)[Recommend14](#)

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Music festivals in Calgary are reporting strong ticket sales despite an economic slowdown.

The Calgary Folk Festival, which kicks off on Thursday night, is selling about 10 to 15 per cent more tickets than last year.

Artistic director Kerry Clarke watched this spring as some American festivals lowered prices and even offered complicated layaway tickets, but said the folk festival decided to keep prices the same as last year.

The four-day event draws an average of about 50,000 people. Organizers are gearing up for this year's opening night.

"It's like someone's stepping on a gas pedal," said Clarke. "The beginning of the year you're going 10 km/h, and then all of a sudden, you're going 140, and there's no turning back."

The Sled Island music festival attracted 25,000 people before, said festival director Zak Pashak.

No one at the Calgary International Blues Festival is sitting on the sidelines, said Friday that sales for the Aug. 3-9 festival are already up 10 per cent.

"I think people are staying home this year, looking at the TV," she said.

McLeod said the festival decided to "do the opposite of what the rest of the industry is rolling back."

"We're actually growing a little bit, and it seems to be paying off," she said. "We have great enthusiasm and support this year."

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[CrankyGoddess](#) wrote: Posted 2009/07/21

at 4:55 PM ET Kerry Clarke has definitely outlived her usefulness and, I think, has lost touch with today's music. Glen Campbell? There's got to be someone bigger and newer to celebrate our 30th year - in the sunshine this year too!!

I do buy the line that all the music is made by folks and it's listened to by folks... so this can be called a Folk Music Festival. But it wouldn't bother me a bit if they dropped the "folk" from the name. OTOH, it keeps all the metal bands at bay...

Luka Symonds for Artistic Director!!! Vote for Luka!!

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[myopinions](#) wrote: Posted 2009/07/21

at 12:25 AM ET Sorry to say voodooman.. it's a FOLK Festival.. not a music headliner festival. Loreena McKennitt is more Folk than Elvis Costello will ever be.

That being said.. I still think better headliners would be great; something for everyone not jut the Folks types.

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[Voodooman](#) wrote: Posted 2009/07/20

at 7:38 PM ET I stand corrected....4 day and Saturday passes are indeed sold out. That just happened in the last day or two, as I was at the Festival offices late last week, and all tickets were still available.

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[Voodooman](#) wrote: Posted 2009/07/20

at 7:36 PM ET Folk Festival still has 4 day passes, as well as daily passes for all 4 days available, where as in the last few years, the festival has been close to a sell-out, so I'm not sure from which fantasy world Kerry Clarke is pulling her 10-15% ticket increase number. Probably the same one where she actually thinks this year's line-up in fitting of the festival's 30th anniversary...

Don't get me wrong, there are some amazing artists playing, but Sarah Harmer and Loreena McKennitt as the headliners on the weekend? Winnipeg got Elvis Costello, and we got Glen Campbell...

I'm starting the campaign for a new artistic director. It obvious that either the time has passed Kerry by, and she is no longer plugged into what is relevant, or she simply doesn't care, and mailed in the line-up for this year.

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10 per cent increase in sales of full passes over the year

Cindy McLeod doesn't have exact numbers yet but

ere," she said.

ch is rolling back."

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