



Whistling Gardens “Blossom” Summer Garden Festival
Introduces world-fusion powerhouse SULTANS OF STRING live at the Amphitheatre
Presented by Waterford Old Town Hall
Saturday, July 20, 2019



(May 26, 2019 Southern Ontario) - After presenting Sarah Harmer and Ron Sexsmith to sold out crowds in the stunning Whistling Gardens (WG) Amphitheatre in 2016 & 2017, The Waterford Old Town Hall (OTH) is pleased to present internationally acclaimed, multi-award winning Canadian band **Sultans of String, July 20, 2019** as a highlight to their WG Summer Garden Festival “Blossom”. *“It was love at first listen,”* says Wanda Heimbecker, co-owner of WG. *“This Sultans immediately captivated our hearts and imaginations, and after the brilliant successes we had working with the team at the OTH to bring great Canadian music to our garden amphitheatre, we knew an international flavoured genre, and return to our day-long garden festivities was a perfect complement for our botanical gardens guests.”*

This family-friendly musical treat will be available to all festival pass holders, and tickets that offer a unique VIP experience which includes premium seating, local libation tastings, and gourmet appetizers will also be on sale.

Festival passes are \$45 GA/ \$30 Students, and VIP passes are \$79 each (limited availability). All tickets include an all day botanical gardens access pass, gardens open at 9:30am for guests to arrive throughout the day, enjoy lunch onsite and experience complimentary nature conservation education tours and exhibits. Botanical collections include 1,000's of summer blossoms as they reveal their beauty, with Red Hot Poker, Foxtail Lily, Blanket Flower, Echinacea, Aruncus, Lilies, Day Lilies and more... The VIP hour is scheduled from 5:30-6:30pm., with the concert beginning at 7:00pm. Local wine, beer & a crafted festival menu will be available for purchase. Festival passes go on sale Monday May 27, and will be available at The Old Town Hall box office, Whistling Gardens Welcome Centre, and at oldtownhall.org/tickets

About the Sultans of String: 3x JUNO nominated, Billboard charting [Sultans Of String](http://SultansOfString.com) are an “energetic and exciting band with talent to burn!” (Maverick Magazine, UK). Thrilling audiences with their genre-hopping passport of Celtic reels, Flamenco, Gypsy-jazz, Middle Eastern and Cuban rhythms, fiery violin dances with kinetic guitar, while bass and percussion lay down unstoppable grooves. Throughout, acoustic strings meet electronic wizardry to create layers and depth of sound.

Sultans of String have amassed impressive accolades including 3 Canadian Folk Music Awards, a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal (for bandleader Chris McKhool), 1st place out of 15 000 in the ISC, and the honour of performing/recording with such luminaries as The Chieftains, Sweet Honey In The Rock, Richard Bona (Paul Simon), Alex Cuba, and Ruben Blades.

The band is led by 5-string violinist McKhool (Jesse Cook, Pavlo) who was raised in a Lebanese-Egyptian household bursting with music and diversity. Growing up, Chris was fed a steady diet of delicious musicality alongside Middle Eastern cuisine and violin lessons. At the core of the band’s sound is his bold and fiery fiddle, melded seamlessly with founding guitarist Kevin Laliberté’s (Jesse Cook) rumba rhythm. Together their musical synergy created Sultans of String’s signature sound – the intimate and playful relationship between violin and guitar. Other amazing musical friends such as in-the-pocket bass master Drew Birston (Chantal Kreviazuk), jaw-dropping Cuban percussionist Chendy Leon (Alex Cuba, Ron Sexsmith) and sitar master Anwar Khurshid (Oscar winning Life of Pi) join in on the fun.

Sultans of String have been criss-crossing North America for the last several years at many taste-making forums such as NYC’s legendary Birdland, Boston’s Scullers, and London’s Trafalgar Square. They have sold out Koerner Hall (Toronto’s Carnegie Hall), and performed with Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Stratford, and Niagara Symphony Orchestras, as well with Kingsfield POPS in Maine and Maryland’s acclaimed Annapolis Symphony. Sultans of String were also filmed live by MPBN’s *Maine Arts!* and performed live on BBC TV & Radio, Irish National Radio, and the internationally syndicated shows WoodSongs, World Cafe, and on SiriusXM in Washington.

“The OTH continues to elevate and create; assembling award winning partnerships with wineries and celebrated partner businesses willing to introduce innovative ideas for your enjoyment while fostering new markets for Norfolk County. New conversations we need to continue, we’re just scratching the surface. The artistry of our gardens, value of our plant collections, and supportive national garden enthusiast communities are well-positioning our destination’s growth as a local economic driver. In our north-east municipal area of Norfolk County, it’s not about the lake front but healthy business hub connectivity. We’re now attracting many international visitors and bus tours from the United States to experience the best of Ontario’s Garden. Imagine the economic potential for our region as we continue to unite policies and align our businesses!” Wanda Heimbecker, Co-owner of WG.

For more information, interviews, artwork please contact:

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