

CONCIERGE DESK - The Toronto Music Garden

This spring and summer, feel the sun warm your face as you stumble upon one of the most extraordinary parks in Toronto. The smell of sweet mowed grass, the allure of the budding flowers and the brilliance of sunlight illuminates your being. You feel yourself being transported to another world and know that the unexpected is about to happen. It is how one feels when stepping into the Toronto Music Garden, this month's hidden gem.

The Music Garden was inspired by Bach, brought to life by the internationally renowned cellist, Yo Yo Ma, and designed by Julie Moir Messervy. It is divided into six segments, based on Bach's *Suite No. 1 for Unaccompanied Cello*. It starts with the Prelude and ends with the Gigue, but one does not need to be a classical music aficionado to enjoy the serenity and charm of the place. With its cleverly designed gardens and gentle hills serving as a natural amphitheatre, it is a unique and surprising venue to take in a concert or dance performance that encompasses many genres of music. For instance, last year's program included performances varying from a Baroque quartet to Korean drumming to a Persian duo.

The Music Garden is open year-round, with no admission fee, but is best enjoyed in the spring, summer and fall. For a special treat, from June 4 to September 24, catch a one-hour free concert at the Music Garden on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. or Sundays at 4:00 p.m. To learn more about the stunning flowers that adorn the Music Garden, take the 45-minute guided tour led by a volunteer from the Toronto Botanical Garden, Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. (pre-concert). If you prefer, a 70-minute personal audio player tour by Yo Yo Ma and the garden's designer is available for a small fee and can be rented at the Marina office. The garden is wheelchair accessible.

Enjoy!

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