

Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson Unveils Stunning “Cutting-Edge Ancient” Third Album

Grizzly Bear Town chronicles Indigenous traditions and teachings with original songs sung in the Haida language while dovetailing with a dynamic visual exhibition...

August 27, Historic Theatre (with Bill Henderson and Claire Lawrence). Ticket purchase [here](#)



For Immediate Release:

Toronto, **August 8, 2017** — Arriving as Canada’s relationship with its Indigenous peoples is being reviewed and reconciled as never before, *Grizzly Bear Town* — the enchanting third solo album by Haida singer, songwriter, dancer, activist, and environmental lawyer Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson — is poised to propel the conversation about past and future, history and legacy.

Not for nothing does Williams-Davidson characterize the alternately beguiling and inspiring sounds on *Grizzly Bear Town*, out August 11, as “cutting-edge ancient.”

Sung entirely or in part in the vanishing Haida language, and featuring guitarist Bill Henderson and saxophonist Claire Lawrence of acclaimed band Chilliwack, the new songs illustrate Haida stories about land, resource stewardship and spirituality but was cut live-off-the-floor, reflecting the magic that occurs in both traditional potlatches and jazz improvisation.

Grizzly Bear Town also dovetails with a dynamic three-dimensional storytelling installation of photos, music, sound, and dialogue titled *Out of Concealment*, curated by Williams-Davidson and exhibiting now through December 31 at the Haida Gwaii Museum at [Kay Lnagaay](#) in Skidegate, B.C.

Both album and exhibition aim to help people, both inside the Haida Nation and beyond, to better connect with the powerful mores and beliefs upheld by the resilient Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast.

“It is our hope that the music will help listeners of all ages develop a greater appreciation and understanding of Indigenous musical genres, bringing an endangered Indigenous language, worldview and supernatural beings out of concealment and suppression to reach greater and more diverse audiences,” Williams-Davidson offers.

On August 10, the Haida Gwaii Museum hosts a special event featuring an album release party for *Grizzly Bear Town* as well as a live concert and a book launch.

The new album beautifully illustrates Williams-Davidson’s ongoing commitment to preserving and promoting Haida precepts of harmony and conservation. Working with the last fluent Haida speakers to translate lyrics for these stunning original songs, Williams-Davidson also leveraged co-collaborator Lawrence’s saxophone to pay homage to her singer father who, like many Haida musicians — some trained in dreaded residential schools — was torn between tradition and colonization.

“The heart of this recording is in the expression of Haida language lyrics in a contemporary setting,” Williams-Davidson adds. “The project bridges cultures, respectfully blending ancient knowledge with contemporary music.”

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