

**Gold Range band
heads south**
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Entertainment & Arts

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on top at swim meet**
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Northern ensemble headed to Vancouver

*NWT performers gather
for Olympic collaboration
in Yellowknife*

by **Daron Letts**
Northern News Services

MUSICIANS AND VOCALISTS from across the territory gathered in Yellowknife for a marathon series of rehearsals last weekend. The diverse collective of 14 performing artists is preparing to represent the NWT at the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver this coming February.

"It's a chance in 29 minutes and 59 seconds to showcase a taste of some of what performance art is in the NWT," said Lynn Elkin, producing artistic director for the project.

The ensemble is scheduled to open for B.C. rock band Theory of a Dead Man at B.C. Place Stadium as part of the Olympic medal ceremonies on Feb. 19.

"It's thrilling to think that we will be performing at such a large venue," said Yellowknife guitarist Greg Nasogaluak. "The performance is really amazing. Everybody is working hard."

Nasogaluak and the rest of the team gathered at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and in the Ptar-migan Ptheatrics studio space in Kam Lake from Friday night to Sunday night. It was their first time making music together and they made the most of the opportunity by practising 12 hours a day.

Their show, built around the notion that the drum is the heartbeat of the North, expresses the seasons through music and movement. The program embraces traditional and contemporary influences.

"We're all about collaboration, which, I think, is a big part of the performing arts in the NWT," Elkin said.

Yellowknife actor and storyteller Tiffany Ayalik and rapper Aaron "Godson" Hernandez serve as narrators for the half-hour-long production.

"Coming in I didn't know what to expect because there was a whole lot of different styles to blend, but I was actually very

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Daron Letts/NNSI photos

Aaron "Godson" Hernandez adapted his original song X1A for the collective NWT performance being staged at B.C. Place during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver on Feb. 19. The hip-hop artist is also planning to release his tenth CD next month to take with him to Vancouver.



Inuvik recording artist Leanne Goose visited Yellowknife last weekend to collaborate with more than a dozen other performers from Yellowknife and other NWT communities.



Trevor Betsina of Ndilo is among the NWT youth ambassadors representing the performing arts in the NWT in Vancouver.

ENTERTAINMENT Notes

with Daron Letts

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Art on exhibit

The Aurora Arts Society hosts its annual Art Expo this weekend.

More than 20 artists will display new work from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the Multiplex. A wide variety of media and styles will be represented at the event. Folk on the Rocks will present live music throughout the weekend as well.

Surprise jam

Twist hosts an open mic and jam night on Saturday. Musicians and spoken word artists are welcome to take a turn on stage from 9 p.m. until midnight. The venue also offers regular jam nights every Monday and Thursday evening beginning at 8 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Pat Kane

Singer Mary Caroline is launching her debut album tonight.

Double team

Mary Caroline launches her debut album, *Snowblindness*, with a concert at the Top Knight tonight. Doors open at 8 p.m.

The Break Up will open the night at 9 p.m. followed by a set of original music by Caroline. The Break Up will close the night late in the evening.

NACC Beginner Adult

Mask Making Workshop

Come explore the world of Mask Creation with mask maker Douglas Witt.

This intensive weekend workshop will explore the design and creation of masks inspired by imagination and research. Using common everyday materials, Douglas will guide participants through a hands on process discovering character and form through tangible mask making. Participants will be involved in a concentrated process of mask design and construction with attention to form, vibrancy, internal life and detail.

**Sir John Franklin High School Art Room
November 20, 21, 22, 2009**

Schedule

Nov 20 Friday	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Nov 21 Saturday	10:00 am - 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Nov 22 Sunday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
	Total 16 hours

Enrolment is limited to 8 participants. Fee: \$85.00 includes all materials.

Who is Douglas Witt?

Douglas has been working as a mask maker, a teacher of mask, and an FX makeup artist for TV, movie, and theatre for nearly 20 years. As a professional artist, he has traveled all over his native Canada and parts of the USA. His passions are in creating high-end theatre masks and passing on his skills as a traditional mask maker to others. He is driven by his encounters with people from all over the world and the exploration of world cultures through mask making and performance. Inspired by previous visits, he now calls Yellowknife home.



