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B.C. TOP CHEFS UNITE FOR TAKE-OUT EVENT SUPPORTING CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Sakura at Home (April 25) is only 2021 fundraiser for non-profit festival

VANCOUVER, B.C. (March 18, 2021) – Seven of B.C.'s most talented chefs are joining forces to support the non-profit Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival as it prepares to launch its second year of programming amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Known for bringing people together and inspiring everything from poetry, dance and photography, to music, picnics and painting, the Festival's events will be mostly virtual in 2021.

This year, the Festival's most important fundraiser, Sakura Night, has been transformed into **Sakura at Home**, a culinary event presented by McMillan LLP will see seven all-star chefs create exclusive take-out meals that capture the beauty of the cherry blossom. Hosted by Gloria Macarenko, this special evening will feature a diversity of top celebrated chefs and restaurants with the beautiful artistry of their food.

Our Champion Chefs include:

- **Paul Moran** of [Wild Origins](#) (Winner, Top Chef Canada, 2019)
- **Andrea Carlson** of [Burdock & Co.](#) (Vancouver Magazine's 2020 Chef of the Year)
- **Will Lew** of [Nootka Marine Adventures](#) resorts on Vancouver Island, with **Clement Chan** (Represented Canada at the World Culinary Olympics)
- [Salmon n' Bannock Culinary Team](#) - (Vancouver's only Indigenous restaurant)
- **Vikram Vij** and **Meeru Dhalwala** of [Vij's Restaurant](#)
- **Kazuhiro Hayashi** of [Miku Waterfront](#)

The virtual portion of Sakura at Home will feature: a performance by Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra music director and conductor Ken Hsieh on Vancouver House's flying Fazioli piano; Bard on the Beach Artistic Director Christopher Gaze reading winning poems from the 2020 Haiku Invitational; and the world premiere of ***In Full Bloom***, a short film by Patrick Weir of Peacemaker Filmworks. Following the film, Patrick will describe how he used drones to capture Vancouver coming into bloom this Spring, bringing the calming beauty of the cherry blossoms into everyone's homes to make spring even more memorable.

Sakura at Home tickets are now on sale [here](#) on the Festival website. All guests will receive a Sakura at Home gift from our sponsor McMillan LLP, and tickets purchased by March 25th will have a chance to win an "Akebono" Cocktail Kit from The Keeper. As each restaurant has a limited number of meals for sale, it is advised to order now while you have the choice of all six distinctively unique [menus](#).

Each tax-deductible ticket will entitle the buyer to an exclusive cherry blossom-themed meal from the restaurant of their choice on April 25, with the exception of Wild Origins, which will deliver a *Cook-Along with Chef Paul Moran* meal kit for four.

Thinking ahead, Darnell Stager of Salmon n' Bannock said, "these flowers feed our spirit and fill our heart with hope and promise...feed your spirit and body with the variety of the seasonal selection of flavors and textures being showcased at Sakura at Home."

For Festival founder and creative director, the generosity of these professional chefs giving their time to help the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival during a difficult time for the restaurant industry is perfectly captured by a poem submitted by D'arcy Warner of Surrey to the Haiku Invitational:

cherry blossoms
worn by
everyday heroes

About the 2021 Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival:

Presented by Coromandel Properties Recreation, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival is a charitable not-for-profit organization with the objective to educate and actively engage diverse communities in accessible local arts and culture to celebrate the fragile beauty of the cherry blossom. To sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage. Cherry blossom viewing has become a joyful Festival springtime tradition in our city now as people marvel as 54 different varieties blossom across our city. For more information, visit: www.vcbf.ca

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