



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Best of the Fests: Two Iconic Canadian Entertainment Staples, NXNE and the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), Announce a Landmark Music Partnership

A new NXNE Stage at the CNE will bring more of music's most exciting emerging acts to Canada's largest fair from August 21 to September 7, 2026

Toronto, ON - April 16, 2026 – North by Northeast (NXNE) is pleased to announce a major new music programming partnership with the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) to deliver an extraordinary lineup of both established headliners and breakthrough emerging artists across some of the CNE's iconic stages, including a new dedicated **NXNE Stage** that will be located west of the Food Building during the 18-day fair from August 21 - September 7, 2026.

This year, NXNE celebrates its 31st year as Canada's premiere music discovery festival and conference that showcases top Canadian and international rising acts across Toronto's eclectic music venues. Today's announcement marks the first time that NXNE will program a wide-ranging music lineup of emerging artists as part of the CNE, and outside of its annual multi-day music event that takes place in June.

"The CNE has presented some legendary artists over the years, and with NXNE's history of delivering the best new talent from Canada and around the world who have reached worldwide success, we're excited to build on that legacy and help create musical moments for a new generation of music fans at the CNE," says NXNE Founder Michael Hollett. "NXNE kicks off the summer music season, and we're thrilled to partner with the CNE to give the sounds of summer a magnificent sendoff."

Drawing from the thousands of artists, some of whom have already been announced for the [2026 NXNE Festival](#) (June 10-14), attendees at this year's NXNE will be invited to participate in the "X Marks The EX" campaign to pick their favourite bands that should perform at The EX this August. Select acts will be featured as part of the inaugural "Road to the CNE" showcase at NXNE, before heading to the CNE.

"For 146 years, the CNE has been the Showcase of the Nation where Canadians come to discover what's innovative and exciting from arts and technology to food – and especially music – a quintessential part of the CNE experience for generations," says Mark Holland, CNE CEO. "The CNE welcomes more than 1.4 million visitors each year, and our music stages offer an incredible environment for global artists to connect with their fans in an intimate setting, and for emerging artists to reach new audiences that they may have never been able to tap into before. NXNE has spent thirty years finding the artists who go on to define their generation, and bringing that discovery engine as part of the CNE is in perfect harmony with our values."

The CNE is slated to announce part of its 2026 music line-up and headliners in the coming weeks.

ABOUT NXNE

Now in its 31st year, NXNE returns to Toronto from June 10–14, 2026, with 300+ artists, 30+ venues, five nights of music, and a full suite of industry programming including the Billboard Summit at NXNE, Billboard Canada Power Players, Billboard Canada Managers to Watch, Next Level Panels, and the Canadian Sync Awards — all hosted in partnership with AMG (parent company of Billboard Canada and Rolling Stone Canada).

The festival is committed to artist accessibility: application fees are waived, artists are compensated for performances, and all-access festival passes are kept affordably priced for audiences.

TICKETS & INFO

nxne.com

Festival Dates: June 10–14, 2026 | Toronto, ON

For more information, tickets, and the full artist lineup, visit NXNE.com.

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