

Winners of the Sapporo Jazz Festival to perform in Acton on June 27

For five years Eden Mills has welcomed the winners of the previous year's Sapporo International Jazz Festival competition as an energizing fanfare for summer.

This year the North Pandemic Groove Quartet, will not only perform at the Eden Mills Community Hall on Friday, June 26 at 8 p.m., but also at the Acton Town Hall Centre on Saturday, June 27 at 8 p.m.

As a component of their prize, the winners of the Sapporo Competition are invited to perform at the Toronto Jazz Festival. This year, the group will perform in the Youth Jazz Showcase on the Toronto Star Stage in Nathan Phillips Square at 12:30 (noon) on Saturday, June 28, rushing back to the city between their Eden Mills and Acton gigs.

Nassagaweya impresario John Cripton is one of the judges every year at the Sapporo Competition. Of North Pandemic Groove, he says, "The Quartet came first out of 300 participating ensembles. North Pandemic Groove really stood out in the competition. These artists represent the very promising future of jazz in Japan."

North Pandemic Groove musicians are Yuya Monma (guitar), Takezo Yamada (trumpet), Shunsuke Ochi (electric bass) and Taihei (drums). They are all in their twenties and come from the northern island of Hokkaido in Japan. The group's main musical focus is jazz, funk and



NORTH PANDEMIC GROOVE QUARTET

fusion. In 2015 the group produced its first CD entitled "North Pandemic Groove" with the support of the Sapporo Jazz Festival. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpk7PKZcCO8>

These concerts are fund-raisers for both the Eden Mills Community Hall and the Acton Town Hall Centre.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. at the Eden Mills Community Hall, 108 York St. Eden Mills Cash Bar: Beer and wine (Sponsored by Sleeman Brewery). Tickets \$25/adult; \$10/student. Tickets can be purchased at the door, <http://edenmills.ca/music> (PayPal) or John Cripton 519-853-1896 john.cripton@sympatico.ca

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. at the Acton Town Hall Centre, 19 Willow St. N., Acton. Refreshments will be available. Tickets \$25/adult; \$10/student. For tickets: Acton Branch, Halton Hills Library; at the door or reservations can be made at 519-853-5302 or info@actontownhall.com

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