

## WALKING THROUGH THE FIRE

**An Indigenous Music Collaboration with Sultans of String**  
Off the Grid Productions presents a multimedia concert that brings the magic of collaboration with award-winning First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists from across Turtle Island joined by Billboard charting/6x CFMA winners Sultans of String!

*Walking Through the Fire* is a musical multimedia experience unlike any other. From Métis fiddling to an East Coast Kitchen Party, rumba to rock, to the drumming of the Pacific Northwest, experience the beauty and diversity of music from Turtle Island with Elder and Coast Tsm'syen Singer-Songwriter **Shannon Thunderbird**, Ojibwe/Finnish Singer-Songwriter **Marc Meriläinen** (Nadjiwan), **Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk** of the Métis Fiddler Quartet, Algonquin First Nations dancer **Josée Bourgeois**, as well as virtual guests on the big screen, including Elder/Poet **Dr. Duke Redbird**, the **Northern Cree Pow Wow group**, Inuit throat-singing duo **PIQSIQ** and more!



Together these artists are making a safe, creative space where new connections can be dreamed of – not in the Western way of thinking and problematizing – but instead a deeper sharing and understanding, with music being the common ground to help cultures connect and understand each other. “We are opening doors for each other, as Indigenous peoples, as settler peoples. This project is about creating connections and spaces to learn from each other” explains collaborator Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk, violist with the Métis Fiddler Quartet.

A central theme running through *Walking Through the Fire* is the need for the truth of Indigenous experience to be told before reconciliation can begin in earnest.

Embedded in the title of the show is the energy of rebirth: fire destroys, but it also nourishes the soil to create new growth, beauty, and resiliency. *Walking Through The Fire* ensures that we emerge on the other side together, stronger and more unified.

Sultans violinist Chris McKhool, who was recently awarded the Dr. Duke Redbird Lifetime Achievement Award by Duke Redbird for working to amplify these truths through collaborations, says, “This country has a history that has been ignored, distorted, twisted to suit colonialist goals of destroying a people. We are so fortunate for the opportunity to work with Indigenous artists, sharing their stories, their experiences, and their lives with us, so we can continue our work of learning about the history of residential schools, genocide, and intergenerational impacts of colonization. Music has a special capacity for healing, connecting, and expressing truth”.

Nine-time Grammy-nominated Northern Cree and community organisers in Kettle and Stony Point welcomed Sultans of String to their annual powwow for one of these collaborations. Steve Wood, drummer and singer, explains, “When you’re collaborating with mainstream music, it shows that we can work together to bring out the very best in who we are as human beings, and we can bring out something very beautiful.”

The Late Honourable Murray Sinclair, former chair of the TRC, said, “The very fact that you’re doing this tells me that you believe in the validity of our language, you believe in the validity of our art and our music, and that you want to help to bring it out. And that’s really what’s important: for people to have faith that we can do this.”

### WALKING THROUGH THE FIRE An Indigenous Music Collaboration with Sultans of String

THURSDAY, OCT. 16 AT 7 PM  
Wesley United Church  
275 Pembroke St. E., Pembroke

Tickets \$35 at  
[www.offthegridproductions.ca](http://www.offthegridproductions.ca)  
Etransfer [epps@offthegrid.ca](mailto:epps@offthegrid.ca) or  
phone 613-628-5897 for information.