



For Immediate Release

Vernon, BC –

The Sunflower Project event “Let the Sun Shine In” - A Concert of Hope, Resilience & Joy in Gallery Vertigo in Vernon BC, April 1, 2022

The Wayfinder Sunflower Project, Big Apple Productions & North Okanagan Artists Alternative are challenging community artists and organizations to rise up and create art and art events to support local artists, non-profits while also fundraising to support Ukraine.

Under the movement of the www.thesunflowerproject.ca and the story podcast platform of AR:T ROUTE RADIO, Renowned Artist and Ukrainian Internee descendent Michelle Loughery, has been leading artists to work in a connected project of people place and peace since 2013, when she painted a tribute Sunflower mural in honour of her immigrant Ukraine grandparents that were part of the Internment of Austro-Europeans during the first world war in Canada.

As the Ukraine crisis unfolds it is imperative to share the power of art and music to promote peace, healing and inclusivity for now and future generations. The sunflower has much to teach as a global symbol and talking to the sunflowers can connect us all. Mural Artist Michelle Loughery (www.artrouteradio.ca), Opera Singer Melina Schein (www.melinaschein.com), Judy Rose (www.judyrosemusic.com) and Visual Artist Angelika Jaeger (www.angelikajaeger.com) share deep immigrant roots and a passion for community and combining their and other Okanagan Artist talents in a Ukraine support event.

The Sunflower Project -Let the Sun Shine – ‘A Concert of Hope, Resilience & Joy’ - April 1, 2022 at Gallery Vertigo (www.galleryvertigo.com) is one of the innovative music and art gatherings being planned in support of peace.

The artists hope to use the power of art and music and challenge other communities connect with Wayfinder Sunflower Art and Music in a flower power global peace movement. The symbol of the sunflower can illuminate our common humanity and resilience. Part of the proceeds of the event will go to support Ukraine.

Quotes:

Michelle Loughery Master Muralist, Founder The Wayfinder Sunflower Project

“The sunflower represents a symbol of peace, resilience and a common humanity place on this earth. In the call to come together, the voices and power of art can shine a light to create a seed of hope. That one seed can create a bounty of life for all and honor the past resilience of our fore parents as we cultivate a more peaceful future for people, place and peace.”

Melina Schein, Big Apple Productions / Valley Vocal Arts

“Music and art are the essential and universal powers that illuminate our common humanity. As we continue to confront increased anxiety in a divisive world, the arts provide reassurance and create an emotional narrative between past and present when we struggle to articulate such a narrative in words. In doing so, we bolster our

resilience in the face of difficulty. In the words of American poet and activist Maya Angelou, *“Music is my refuge. I can crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.”* “

Brigitte Red, North Okanagan Artists Association (NOAA) / Gallery Vertigo

“Through music and art, we can experience the hope and joy reflected in a full-grown sunflower and share that hope.”

AJ Jaeger, Artist

“Music, like flowers are universal and can be experienced and understood around the world. I so appreciate to be part of a group of super spreaders for the most nutritious soul food.”

Judy Rose, Performer

“As we navigate through these times, we need solace, inspiration and hope. Music and Art provide us with both. “Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife.” Kahlil Gibran.”

We acknowledge that we live and work, with gratitude and respect, within the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Syilx Nation.

