



FAMILY DAY, MARCH BREAK, AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES ON THE BLOOR ST. CULTURE CORRIDOR

TORONTO, Canada (February 5, 2015): The **Bloor St. Culture Corridor**, Toronto's most diverse arts and culture district, located within an easily-walkable-kilometre-and-a-half between Bathurst and Bay, offers a vast array of **Family Day and March Break events, concerts, camps, and family-friendly activities in February and March.**

Everyone can download the Bloor St. Culture Corridor **free mobile app** for exclusive special offers, event announcements, and convenient access to the **14 arts and culture destinations on Bloor St. W.**, from the Annex to Yorkville, in Central Toronto.

Special Family Day Events:

The **Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)** presents **Family Day Weekend 2015: Chinese New Year – Year of the Ram**, February 14-16, for a long weekend of hands-on art activities, Lion Dance performances, and exploration of artifacts from the ROM vaults. Highlights include: calligraphy art demonstrations, musical performances from the Toronto Chinese Orchestra, Tai Chi with the CCC Tau Chi Academy, and more! Programs from 11am-4pm. Appropriate for children of all ages. Free with Museum admission.

Family Day at the **Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre**, Monday, February 16, 9am-5pm, features a festival of events including a dance party, a sing-a-long with *Frozen* characters, jungle gym, a Parapan Am Games Interactive Demo, soccer demos, balloon animals, and face-painting. Enjoy a special day of fun for children of all ages. Admission is free.

The **Bata Shoe Museum** invites everyone to a special Family Day **Artist Studio** on February 16, 10am-4pm, for a day of arts and crafts, with a unique shoe-theme. Paint, draw and sculpt innovative creations to take home. The fun continues with games of iSpy in the Museum's galleries and the opportunity to try on unique footwear. Free with Museum admission.

On February 16, celebrate family with a visit to the **Gardiner Museum**. All are invited to participate in hands-on fun at the clay table and explore the collection through unique activities, including scavenger hunts, crosswords, and more. Free with Museum admission.

Join the **Bloor Hot Docs Cinema** for a special Family Day screening of Hot Docs 2014 Audience Award Winner *The Backward Class*, on Monday, February 16, at 4pm (admission is free for those 16 and under). *The Backward Class* features the Dalit students of Shanti Bhavan school in Bangalore, India, who prepare to make history by becoming the first from their "untouchable" caste to take high school graduation exams.

Special March Break Activities and Events:

The **Bata Shoe Museum** presents ***Get Your Game On! March Break Fun and Games***, March 14-22, a celebration of games, old and new. Activities include an obstacle course, carnival games, guessing games, and native games. Featured activities include Twister, Hopscotch, Minecraft, and more. For hands-on fun, children can make their own unique game to take home. Daily 10am-4pm, Sundays 12pm-4pm.

The **Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre** presents ***March Break Adventure Camp***, March 16-20, a program of exciting events and activities. With a focus on cooperative play and team building, children can explore fun in many forms: swimming, drama, arts and crafts, cooking, sports, science, and more. Daily 9am-5pm. Morning pre-camp care, 8:30am-9am. Extended evening care, 4pm-6pm.

March Break Clay Camps at the **Gardiner Museum**, March 16-20, offer an exciting exploration of ceramic creativity. Learn to sculpt functional pieces and finish with decorative glazes during morning camp sessions, open to children ages 7 to 14, with all levels of experience welcome. With a primary focus on wheel-throwing techniques, afternoon camp sessions, open to children 12 and older, will also explore glazing techniques, hands-on building and surface decoration. March Break fun continues with hands-on clay and tile painting in the lobby, and scavenger hunts throughout the galleries. Sunday March 15 and Sunday March 21, 11am-4pm. Free with Museum admission.

The **ROM** presents ***March Break Futurology: Experience the Future NOW***, from March 14-22. Blast off on a fantastic journey with cutting-edge technologies, science, art and culture. Highlights include: explorations with futuristic technology – Google Glass, and Google Cardboard, epic gaming in our ROM Arcade, interactive theatrical performances, and more. All ages, all week!

The **Royal Ontario Museum's (ROM) March Break Camp**, March 16-20, offers an exciting array of fun, activity-based programs inspired by the ROM's collections and research. Select from a variety of learning lab programs in the morning or afternoon, or combine sessions for a full day camp. A supervised lunch is provided for all full day participants. Early morning drop-off available from 8am-9am. Extended evening care available, 4pm-6pm, for afternoon and full day participants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Programs recommended for children ages 5 to 16. Early registration is recommended, with class sizes limited.

The Royal Conservatory School (RCS) at The Royal Conservatory of Music offers a ***March Break Camp*** for budding young musicians, ages 7 to 12, to enhance their musicianship through hands-on exploration of different composers and musical genres, in an engaging and interactive setting. Field trips will offer behind the scenes access to rehearsals of upcoming local performances. Children are invited to bring their instrument and participate in daily master classes and performance opportunities led by RCS faculty. One year minimum playing experience recommended. Daily 9am-4pm, March 16-20.

Family Activities in February and March:

The **Bata Shoe Museum** offers ongoing family activities with ***Weekends at the BSM***. Families are invited to visit for a weekend of arts and crafts and games in the galleries. Children's craft activities change monthly and all are invited to try on unique pieces of footwear. Free with Museum admission.

Alliance Française de Toronto invites children of all ages to attend upcoming installments of their entertaining costume party series, featuring unique performances and tasty pastries. Storytelling of ***Pirates of the Caribbean*** on February 7, dress code: pirates; concert of ***The Sorcerer's Apprentice By Paul Dukas*** on February 28, dress code: magic; and storytelling of ***Stories from the Middle Ages*** on March 14, dress code: princes and princesses. Costume parties begin at 4pm, with performances starting at 5pm (running time of 45 minutes). Children's afternoon film screenings continue with ***Cinema for little ones*** featuring ***The Blackbird***, ***Tchou Tchou***, ***Cuckoo M. Edgar!***, and ***I want a dog*** on March 28 at 4:30pm. Admission is free for children 7 and under.

Family Camp, the **Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)**'s workshop series, continues on February 28, 1pm-4pm, with hands-on activities and special access to ROM collections. Children ages 5 and older are invited to attend **Family Camp: Life and Evolution**, an exclusive tour of the ROM's natural history exhibits, with the chance to get up close with the diversity of life on display. Examine fossils, skins and skeletons, then get creative during an art project led by ROM Educator and second year doctoral student, **Daniel Kwan**. Registration required, limit of 2 children per adult.

On February 28, the **Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre** presents **Hockey Night in Shushan**, 7pm-11pm, an exciting family ball hockey tournament, with a prize for the winning team. Participate in the evening as either player or spectator. Purim costumes are encouraged. Enjoy extended activities including live musical performances with Turn Up Entertainment and dance and costume competitions. All skill levels are welcome, recommended for children 7 and older. Limited space is available, registration closes February 25. The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre hosts **Party at the Palace!**, a Purim Carnival, on March 1, 10am-1pm. Families are invited to attend in costume for a celebration with magic, games and crafts. Highlights include a meet and greet with musical duo Sonshine and Broccoli, kosher lunch and hamentaschen, bouncy castle, costume party, and more.

The **Royal Conservatory of Music's Koerner Hall Family Concerts** series continues on March 7 at 2pm with a performance by New Orleans jazz piano prodigy **Jon Batiste and Stay Human**. Journey to the Big Easy with Jon Batiste and a supporting quartet of master musicians as the roots of jazz are broken down and further explored through funk, rhythm, the blues, and spirituals. Enjoy a 75 minute family-friendly version of a Koerner Hall evening concert, appropriate for children ages 6 to 13. Tickets: 416.408.0208

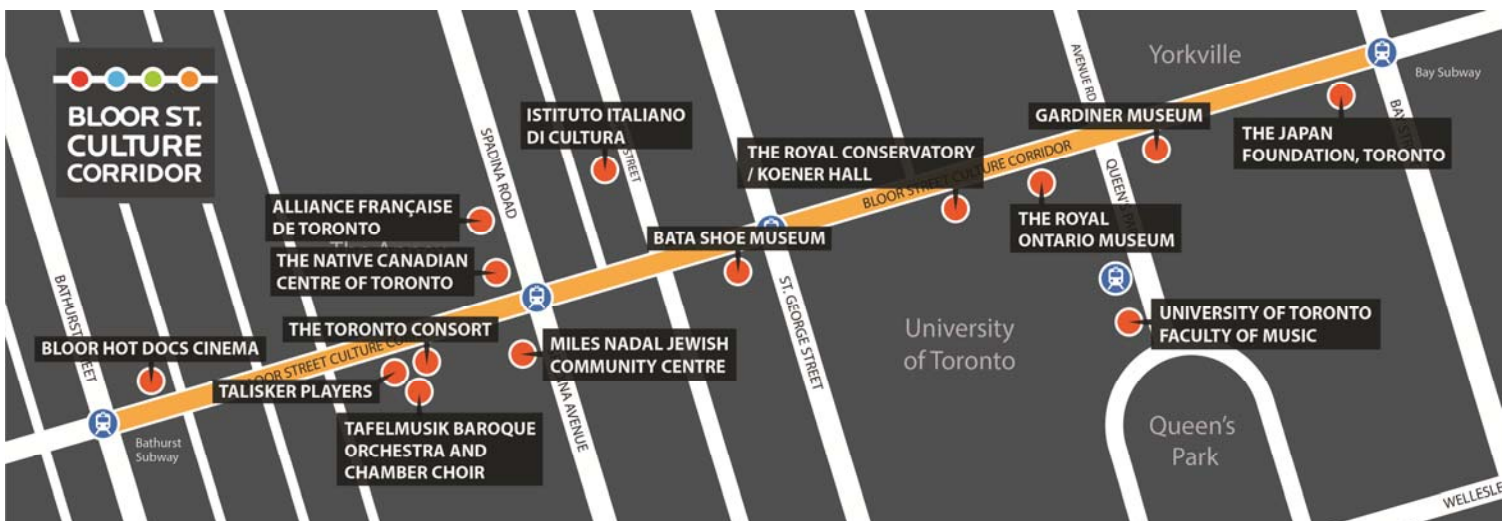
Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir features an online **Tafelmusik Baroque Learning Centre** dedicated to interactive, engaged, and ongoing music education for children of all ages. Explore composers' life and times and how Tafelmusik musicians recreate baroque experience. Discover what makes a uniquely baroque instrument and develop an in-depth knowledge with the Centre's comprehensive glossary and guides to baroque and classical music. <http://www.tafelmusik.org/flash/learningcentre/tafel.html>

More information about **the Bloor St. Culture Corridor, upcoming events, and the arts district's 14 partnering arts and culture destinations**, can be found at:

www.bloorstculturecorridor.com

Twitter: @bloorstculture

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bloorstculturecorridor



The Bloor St. Culture Corridor arts and culture destinations include:

Alliance Française de Toronto: 24 Spadina Road www.alliance-francaise.ca

Bata Shoe Museum: 327 Bloor Street West www.batashoemuseum.ca

Bloor Hot Docs Cinema: 506 Bloor Street West www.bloorcinema.com

Gardiner Museum: 111 Queen's Park www.gardinermuseum.on.ca

Istituto Italiano di Cultura: 496 Huron Street www.iictoronto.esteri.it/IIC_Toronto

The Japan Foundation, Toronto: 131 Bloor Street West www.jftor.org

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre: 750 Spadina Ave. www.mnjcc.org

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto: 16 Spadina Road www.ncct.on.ca

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM): 100 Queen's Park (Entrance on Bloor Street W.) www.rom.on.ca

The Royal Conservatory of Music / Koerner Hall: 273 Bloor Street West www.performance.rcmusic.ca

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra & Chamber Choir: 427 Bloor Street West www.tafelmusik.org

Talisker Players: 427 Bloor Street West www.taliskerplayers.ca

The Toronto Consort: 427 Bloor Street West www.torontoconsort.org

University of Toronto Faculty of Music: 80 Queen's Park www.music.utoronto.ca

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