



# Arts&life

## Maple Ridge musician gives thanks for rain

Peter Tam records scenic music video on rock overlooking Maple Ridge

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**O**n a rock high above Maple Ridge, a lone pianist takes the stage.

In the video, he appears to be alone on a cliff overlooking the city, with the beauty of the forest cradling him from behind.

The sun beams down on him as he begins to play and the sweet sounds of jazz waft through the wind.

*Thanks for the Rain* is Peter Tam's first professionally released single and the video was shot in his "backyard" in Silver Valley.

He chose the location for the video, not only for its beauty, but because it is only a five minute walk from his house and relatively easy, with help, of course, to carry his grand piano to the site.

Then with the help of his son, Alex Tam, a 27-year-old director and cinematographer, and the perfect camera angles, they were able to eliminate houses from the surrounding area.

"So it looks like I am in the wilderness. That's the feel I wanted," said the pianist who noted he hired his son to do the work, although he did get a "family discount."



*Thanks for the Rain* by Peter Tam is out on Spotify, Napster and Google Play. (Contributed)

Tam started playing keyboard in rock bands in high school. He continued on with music in university and received his Royal Conservatory in piano.

He is well-known in the community for his performances at various festivals and events, playing everything from classical music on the violin to Elton John tributes. Tam was even the conductor of an orchestra.

Tam is a member of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and, as such, was first approached in 2009 to be a judge for the JUNO Awards, Canada's premiere music achievement awards. He was one of about 200 judges, helping to decide multiple categories for the awards ceremony.

Last year, he was asked to be a judge again for the awards in the host city London, Ontario, and

was invited to the VIP gala and other events in the week leading up to the show.

It was during one event, a songwriters' circle hosted by Canadian composer and record producer David Foster and Alan Doyle, lead singer of folk rock band Great Big Sea, that Tam decided it was time to focus on his music.

"Being in the room with some of the giants of Canadian music and listening to some of the things that they were talking about I decided it's time for me to go back and be serious about working with my music," he said.

Tam decided to follow his love of jazz

"I think with jazz, it's like beer and coffee, you kind of have to acquire the taste but after you start tasting it, once you acquire the taste, you can become a real connoisseur," he said.

When you understand jazz, the musician added, the music is very colourful in a way that makes him feel good inside.

Tam wrote *Thanks for the Rain* in August and then recorded it with Andrew Van Slee, the producer of Michael Bubl  's first album. It was released Sept. 10.

He says he wrote the song because "it rains here all the time".

"It's all about appreciation. It takes a rainy day for you to appreciate a sunny day. It's a metaphor for life," he said.

*Thanks for the Rain* is available on Spotify, Napster, and Google Play.

## JANUARY 2020 This Month at The ACT Arts Centre

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### Season Title Sponsor

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#### Holy Wow Poets

January 7, 7:00 pm

#### Friday Night Dance – Beginners Merengue

January 10, 7:00 pm

Shades of Blue: Federation of Canadian Artists Fraser Valley Chapter Opening Reception:

January 11, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Free Event

#### Teen Band Jam

January 13, Tech time 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm; Jam time 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

#### artBAR

January 14, 7:00 pm

#### Songstage with Ivan Boudreau

January 14, 7:00 pm

#### Spin In with the Whonnock Weavers

January 14, 7:00 pm

#### artBAR

January 16, 7:00 pm

#### Classical Coffee Concert Series:

Quarteto Nuevo

January 16, 10:30 am

#### Drop-in Life Drawing

January 16, 6:30 pm

#### SFU Philosophers' Caf  

January 16, 7:00 pm

#### The Listening Lounge Series:

Quarteto Nuevo

January 17, 8:00 pm

#### Golden Ears Writers and Readers Festival

January 18, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

#### Teen Band Jam

January 20, Tech time 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm;

Jam time 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

#### Golden Ears Writers

January 21, 7:00 pm

#### Drop-in Life Drawing

January 23, 6:30 pm

#### Canadian Musical Icons: An Evening with

Shari Ulrich and Bill Henderson

January 25, 8:00 pm

#### Exhibitions on Screen Series: Matisse from

MoMA and Tate Modern

January 26, 3:00 pm

#### Celtic Jam with Nigel Tucker

January 28, 7:00 pm

#### Classical Coffee Concert Series:

The Red Violin with The Bergmann Duo

January 30, 10:30 am

#### Drop-in Life Drawing

January 30, 6:30 pm

#### Hell, Yeah! An Evening with the Devil

February 1, 8:00 pm

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For more information about these events or future upcoming events contact or visit:

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