

# PEBBLE STAR ARTISTS



## SCHOOL PERFORMANCES 2024-2025

## Kung Jaadee | VANCOUVER

Kung Jaadee (Roberta Kennedy) is a professional storyteller, educator and published author. She belongs to the Xaayda (Haida), x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əym (Musqueam), Swxwú7mesh (Squamish), Tlingit, Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and is also part Hawaiian. For 30 years, she has performed traditional legends teaching universal messages while also sharing personal stories about the history and hardships of her people. She has performed at hundreds of schools and festivals across Canada and is the published author of the children's books, "Raven's Feast," "Gifts from Raven," and two textbooks, "Haida Nation: Indigenous Communities in Canada" and "We Are Home."



### Haida Stories & Songs

Kung Jaadee shares her telling of popular Haida legends about the world's creator, raven (yaahl). She may include stories such as Raven's Feast, Raven Brings the Water and Raven Brings the Light. She also shares songs with her drum, Xaad Kil (Haida language), and a regalia show-and-tell. Includes a Q&A to discuss Haida culture, traditions and history.

### Squamish Stories & Songs

Kung Jaadee shares her telling of Squamish legends popularized by Indigenous activist and poet E. Pauline Johnson's book, *Legends of Vancouver*. She will include stories about sites within Stanley Park, such as Lost Lagoon, Siwash Rock, The Lions (The Two Sisters), and Lumberman's Arch. Other stories she shares include: the *Two-Headed Sea Serpent and The Serpent Slayer*; *How the Salmon Came to the Squamish People*; *The Great Flood Story*; and *How the Squamish People Came To Be*.

*Note: A combination of Haida and Squamish Stories & Songs is also available upon request.*

**GRADES:** K-12

**DURATION:** 45 minutes + 15 min. Q&A

**CAPACITY:** Max 500

#### PERFORMANCE FEES:

Lower Mainland: \$850 Fraser Valley & Howe Sound: \$850

Vancouver Island: \$900 Interior | Kootenays | North | Remote: \$1,000

**WORKSHOP FEES:** \$1000-\$1500 daily rate depending on number of classes. Please inquire.

*Ability to do up to three smaller shows/day in a school for a discounted daily fee.*



Contact: Kim Thé | 604-727-4413  
bookings@pebblestarartists.com

www.pebblestarartists.com  
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### Arts IQ Virtual Programs

The *Haida Stories* virtual program has 6 videos featuring the legends: Raven's Feast; Raven Brings the Light; Raven Brings the Water; Moon Woman; and salmon stories. She also shares songs with drumming and a regalia show and tell.

The *Squamish Stories* virtual program has 9 videos of legends filmed within Stanley Park and in Chekwelp (known as Gibsons). Kung Jaadee's uncle Bob Baker, a Squamish Elder and leader of Spawkus Slolem (Eagle Song Dancers), accompanies her in some of the storytelling and shares some songs.

For more info, subscriptions and virtual artist visit add-ons, visit [www.artsiq.ca](http://www.artsiq.ca).

### ReconciliaACTION Workshop

Kung Jaadee grew up in Haida Gwaii off reserve and attended public schools in Massett. During her childhood, she experienced overt racism at school and was bullied by settler students who called her names and projected stereotypes onto her and other Haida kids. Through her journey into adulthood and her work as a storyteller and teacher over the past 30 years, she has learned to love herself and embrace her Indigenous cultures, traditions and histories. In this workshop, she will lead a thoughtful discussion dispelling the stereotypes that have been placed upon Indigenous people for generations. She will summarize the key points of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and discuss the Calls to Actions and the 6 Actions of ReconciliaACTION: To Learn, Understand, Explore, Recognize, Take Action, and Teach Others. Using the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's ReconciliaACTION plan template, students will work with Kung Jaadee to create their own actionable plan to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination, while also promoting tolerance, understanding and good relations with indigenous peoples.

# Will's Jams | VANCOUVER

Will Stroet of Will's Jams is a JUNO-nominated bilingual singer-songwriter, educator and former CBC Kids star. Since 2005, he's performed more than 2,500 shows in schools, theatres and festivals across Canada and in China. In addition to his popular English and French school shows, Will also leads popular songwriting workshops. He is repeatedly booked by school districts for French, English and bilingual concerts, as well as songwriting workshops.



## Will's Jams Concert English, French, Bilingual

Will offers interactive concerts in English, French and both languages with his 3-piece band, featuring his most popular educational songs from his 12 nationally acclaimed albums. Over the past decade touring schools, Will has developed top-notch shows with audience participation, fun wordplay, sign language and sing-along choruses. His music explores themes of literacy, creativity, math, science, art and living a healthy and active lifestyle—all of which ties into Canadian elementary school curriculum.

*“Will's Jams' show was great! He and his band were professional and easy to work with in setup and the show connected with the students right from the start. Will's experience as a teacher and performer allowed him to move between songs and activities easily and having the students highly energized, but then in control and listening again for directions. My Grade 6/7 students talked about it being the best show they had ever seen.”*

*—Malcolm Fleeton, SD No. 85, teacher and district arts coordinator*

## Songwriting Workshops French or English

As a former music teacher who has been leading songwriting workshops for children across Canada and in China, Will has developed a fun and effective method to harness children's creativity in writing songs. His interactive workshops involve critical thinking, creative writing, call and response, actions, presentation skills as well as performance and recording opportunities. Will teaches students about the basics of songwriting including: lyric, chorus and verse composition; rhythm and rhyme schemes; and melody. By the end of the session, students will have collaboratively composed a song that is performance ready. The song topic can be tied to any curricular theme.



## Virtual Program

Will's Jams | Will et Seeka

Will offers professionally pre-recorded English, French and bilingual concerts. In addition, Will and fellow French educator and performer Seeka Sings, offer a French program, “Will et Seeka,” which includes lyric music videos, downloadable songs, instrumental tracks and printable activity sheets. For subscriptions, visit [www.artsiq.ca](http://www.artsiq.ca).

**GRADES:** JK-7

**DURATION:** 45 minutes + Q&A

**CAPACITY:** Entire school

**GROUP SIZE:** 3-piece band

**CONCERT FEES:**

Lower Mainland: \$1,100 + GST

Fraser Valley & Howe Sound: \$1,100 + GST

Vancouver Island | Interior: \$1,200 + GST

Kootenays | North | Remote: \$1,300 + GST

Outside of BC: \$1,300 + GST

**GRADES:** 1-7

**CAPACITY:** 1-2 classes/session

**DURATION:** 45 minutes/session up to 4 sessions in 1 day

**DAILY WORKSHOP FEES:** \$1,200-\$1,500 + GST

*Inquire for pricing for multiple-day songwriting residencies.*

# Karima Essa | NEW WESTMINSTER

A three-time Canadian National Dance champion, Karima Essa is Vancouver's very own Bollywood star. As a charismatic performer, choreographer and instructor, she has used her unique Bollywood talent to entertain audiences at hundreds of schools, festivals and theatres across Canada. In 2014, her love for Bollywood took her to the screens in Mumbai as a two-time finalist on Omni TV's reality show, Bollywood Star. Karima shares her body positive messaging in schools by demonstrating that all bodies can dance like a Bollywood Star.



## Body Positive Bollywood Show

Since age 4, Karima's been gracing the stage in dance competitions, events and in recent years, OMNI TV's Bollywood Star reality show. She grew up thinking she needed to be a certain shape and size fueled by propaganda from the entertainment industry. Her Bollywood workshop-style dance show celebrates the vibrant and colorful culture of South Asia, while also promoting positive messages of self-love and acceptance. She also incorporates breathing techniques and ideologies from ancient scholars, which adds a layer of spirituality to the dance practice. Students of all shapes and sizes will leave inspired to accept and love themselves inside and out, on and off the dance floor!

## Arts IQ Virtual Program

Karima offers 6 virtual Bollywood Dance programs for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels for grades K-12. Each dance program includes 30-40 minutes of pre-recorded content with a warm up, dance lesson, performance and cool down. For more info, visit [www.artsiq.ca](http://www.artsiq.ca)

## Bollywood Dance Workshops

In this 1-day workshop, students will learn that ALL bodies can dance like a Bollywood Star! In her trademark charming and humorous style, Karima teaches students the basic elements of Bollywood dance, while also using props such as scarves and Dandiya sticks. At the end of the day, students will perform a follow-and-repeat dance routine that showcases highlights from each group's workshop. Karima also offers a special lunchtime dance session for teachers so they can perform as a surprise for their students. Discounted pricing is available for multi-day residencies for 3, 5 or 10 days. These residencies offer a more in-depth exploration of Bollywood dance and allow students to build their skills over time. She will lead a full student performance at the end of the residency.

*"Karima had the students fully engaged in her performance. She was charismatic and funny and her show had just the right amount of watch-and-learn and follow-me! The students and staff were entertained and learned about the magic of communicating through music."*

*—Celidh Deichmann, Lakewood Elementary School, Victoria*

**GRADES:** K-7

**DURATION:** 45 min. + Q&A

**CAPACITY:** Entire school

**PERFORMANCE FEES:**

Lower Mainland: \$850

Fraser Valley & Howe Sound: \$850

Vancouver Island: \$900

Rest of BC: \$1,000

**GRADES:** K-12

**DURATION:** 1 day

**CAPACITY:** Entire school. 4-5 workshops. 60 kids/session.

**DAILY WORKSHOP FEES:**

Lower Mainland: \$1,200

Fraser Valley & Howe Sound: \$1,200

Vancouver Island: \$1,300

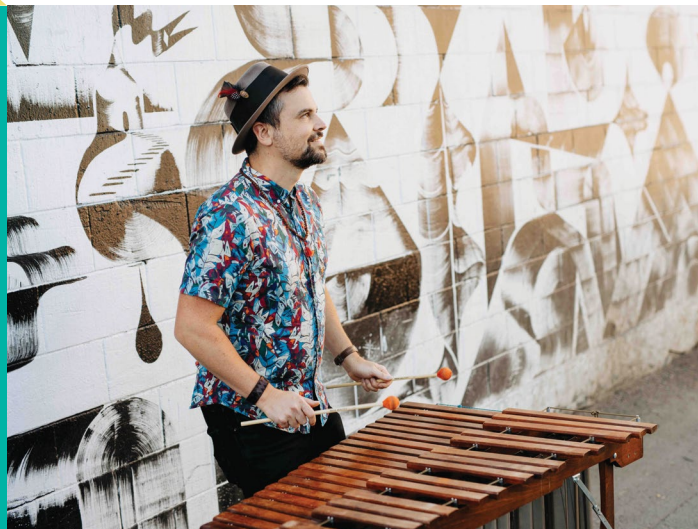
Rest of BC: \$1,500

Outside of BC: \$1,500

*Inquire for pricing for multiple-day dance residencies.*

## Robin Layne | VANCOUVER

Over the past 15 years, Juno-nominated percussionist Robin Layne has steeped himself in rhythmic traditions around the world. His search for rhythm and folkloric traditions has led him to Cuba, Guinea, Mali, Mexico and Colombia. He brings these influences to bear in his compositions which are inspired by his travels. Robin believes music has the power to connect and bring people together and has devoted his life to that, both through his performing work and also his educational work with young people. He is the senior percussion instructor at the Sarah McLachlan School of Music in Vancouver, and leads percussion workshops with youth across B.C.



### Journey into Rhythm

In this interactive and high-energy musical show designed for young audiences, students get to join the band and learn how to keep a beat by making music on marimbas and percussion instruments. The performance features the marimba, the big cousin to the xylophone, and takes kids on a journey around the globe, as it follows Robin on his travels to Cuba, West Africa, Mexico and Colombia.



**GRADES:** K-12

**DURATION:** 45-min + Q&A

**CAPACITY:** Entire school

**GROUP SIZE:** 3-piece band

**PERFORMANCE FEES:**

Lower Mainland: \$1,100 + GST

Fraser Valley & Howe Sound: \$1,100 + GST

Vancouver Island | Interior \$1,200 + GST

Kootenays | North | Remote: \$1,300 + GST

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### Marimba workshops and residencies

With 10+ years experience teaching marimba and percussion, Robin's marimba workshops are designed to give students a chance to learn how to play marimbas and percussion within the hour. With a set of 7 marimbas and additional percussion instruments, students will build confidence, community and rhythm. By the end of an afternoon or week, they'll be able to perform a song along with him. Robin has been teaching marimba camps and residencies around B.C. for over a decade and has worked in schools as well as not-for-profits such as Jam Camp, Instruments of Change, Miscellaneous Productions and Vancouver's Sarah McLachlan School of Music.

Discounted daily pricing is available for multi-day residencies. Robin leads workshops solo locally and with a three-piece band if on tour.

"Marimba is probably the most sensual and harmonious of all percussion instruments and Robin Layne one of its best ambassadors." — Marc Fournier / Music Journalist / host at CBC Radio Canada

**GRADES:** K-7

**DURATION:** 1 day

**CAPACITY:** 4 classes per day. Max 30 kids/session.

**DAILY WORKSHOP FEE:** \$1,000-\$1,500 + GST

Workshops can be led solo or with a band if on tour. Prices will vary by region and band size. Inquire for pricing for multiple-day residencies and more info.

# Will & Seeka

## VANCOUVER | EDMONTON

Will & Seeka — of Will’s Jams and Seeka Sings — are nationally recognized musicians and educators who both have a passion for music, languages, and childhood education. Their shared understanding of the power of music in teaching languages brought these two songwriters and parents together to create fun, unique, and relevant musical resources to support French and English language learning. Born into families of educators and musicians, Will and Seeka have found music to be instrumental in helping both of them become fluent in French as their second language.

They are touring their debut albums, “Will et Seeka: Amis avec tout le monde” and “Will and Seeka: Friends with Everyone,” in schools across BC and Alberta.



## Will et Seeka: Amis avec tout le monde

## Will & Seeka: Friends with Everyone

“Will et Seeka: Amis avec tout le monde” is the ultimate interactive concert for students learning French as a second language. Whether they’re in French immersion, core French or just have a love for the language, this concert is guaranteed to engage and entertain. And, they’ll be learning French without even realizing it! Will and Seeka are accompanied by a talented, bilingual band in this energetic and educational show, which features songs about colours, days of the week, weather, food, animals, daily routines, family and friends, the alphabet and movement. Through sing-along choruses, actions and movement, kids will leave the show with these joyous songs in their hearts and a skip in their step.

“Toute l’école a aimé le concert de Will et Seeka! All their songs are catchy, relevant to the children’s lives, and fun to sing. Students easily memorized the fun songs and were super excited to sing them at the concert. Merci beaucoup for one of our favourite days this year!”

— Stacey Sveistrup, Vice-Principal, Vancouver



### Virtual Program

The *Will et Seeka* virtual French music program on Arts IQ includes 15 lyric music videos, downloadable songs, instrumental tracks and printable activity sheets with a virtual visit add-on. For class and school subscriptions, visit [www.artsiq.ca/willetseeka](http://www.artsiq.ca/willetseeka)



**GRADES:** JK-4

**DURATION:** 45-min + Q&A

**CAPACITY:** Entire school

**GROUP SIZE:** 4-piece band

**PERFORMANCE FEE:** \$1,500 + GST

Extra travel fees may be added if travelling outside the Lower Mainland.

Limited availability. Inquire for dates.

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bookings@pebblestarartists.com

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## Who We Are

Pebble Star Artists is a full-service arts management and booking agency offering the best in live and virtual young audience performances. Our diverse roster includes some of Western Canada's top touring artists who create inspiring, educational and relevant shows for children and youth. We are committed to working with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of colour) artists and strive to amplify their voices through thought-provoking, inspirational and entertaining live performances.

Founder Kim Thé brings unbridled passion, energy and more than a decade of artist management and booking experience through her work with her husband and business partner Will Stroet of Will's Jams. After having success booking Will for 2,000 + shows and branding him as the original "Pebble Star" (a "rock star" for kids), Kim knew the next logical step was to start her own agency, so she incorporated Pebble Star Artists on International Women's Day in March 2017 and hasn't looked back.

*"It's always a pleasure to work with Kim. Her professionalism, expertise and knowledge make her a gem to work with! Without a doubt, I highly recommend her!"*

—Lucie Lareau, arts programmer, Vancouver

## Why Book With Us?

We are a licensed BC talent agency (#BA-2023-103100) that offers reliable and quick service with flexible pricing for low-income schools so that arts programming is accessible to everyone. We are committed to confirming bookings quickly with no extra administration fees.

## How To Book

Contact Kim Thé at [bookings@pebblestarartists.com](mailto:bookings@pebblestarartists.com) or 604-727-4413.

You can also fill out our online booking form at [www.pebblestarartists.com/book](http://www.pebblestarartists.com/book).

For virtual programs available for teacher and school subscriptions, visit [www.artsiq.ca](http://www.artsiq.ca).



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