

## Post festival report

TD Mosaic Festival celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> annual edition on August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Mississauga's Celebration Square. A stellar lineup of the biggest south Asian artists, performing their original music in a two-day free festival was attended by audience at capacity both days.

August 3, a talk with Nilofur Farrukh, a writer and curator, founder of Karachi Biennial at the Art Gallery of Mississauga hosted by Shannon Anderson, the curator of AGM.

The powerful lineup of South Asian and Canadian artists for the outdoor festival was led by two days of "Rising Star" singing competition. Winners, Art Philip AKA Drastic, on Friday and Vedanth Kaimal, on Saturday got cash reward and will be given an opportunity to perform on Season 3 of Mosaic Soundz.

The festival opened with folk and Sufi colors of Punjab with Mekaal Hassan, a Berklee College of Music Alumni with vocals by Jaasman Rathore, accompanied by a great diverse ensemble of Canadian artists.

An exciting performance by The Snake Charmer Archy J, with her Bagpipes played her great Bhangra Scottish Style with dancers

Opening for great Jazzy B, Simar Bola, featured in Mosaic Soundz, season 2, is a rising Star in the Canadian music scene and her powerful vocal style took over the stage.

An icon in Punjabi music culture of the west, Jazzy B has a huge following. With great British Bhangra and Punjabi music culture, Jazzy B established a Canadian sound that has inspired young performers like Deep Jandu and many more. His powerful performance with Vancouver band EnKarma. Closed Friday night with audience dancing to every song.

The biggest name from Coke Studio Pakistan and international independent music star Ali Sethi was all the rage on Saturday night. His recent Coke Studio Hit and Coachella appearance helped move his reputation from ethnic to global audience and Ali lived up to that expectation all the way. His powerful performance was a joy.

Saturday night also featured our own Canadian Juno winner Kiran Ahluwalia accompanied by internationally established musicians. Kiran was the first headliner for Mosaic 17 years ago and it was a great recall seeing her progress and current trajectory.

Other performers included Mosaic Soundz Season 2 artist, Mujeeb Mustafa from Nescafe Studio, Pakistan in his first festival performance in Canada.

Sankalana Dance presented a series of elegant and beautiful Srilankan dances.

The grand finale for the festival will featured the most sought after “Bollywood Dance School Toronto’ choreographed by acclaimed Canadian choreographer, Parth Dhani.

Master of Ceremonies at the TD Mosaic festival was Dora Nominated, renowned actor and director, Ali Kazmi.

CCAI Chair and Board members attended all the festivities and presented four awards to notable members of arts and culture community in Canada who needed community recognition. Those included Ali Adil Khan receiving Jim Tovey Excellence in art service award, Faisal Anwar receiving Excellence in Arts Award, Raj Girn received anniversary award for 20 years of Anokhi media and late Mississauga artist Ishrat Suhrwardy was given lifetime achievement award posthumously.

Festival also included art and craft workshops for kids with Yogita Tandon Anand and onsite painting competition with amateur artist

A wide variety of cuisine from 15 food booths were sold out both days and got brisk business for South Asian jewelry and garments and accessories at our Vendors Bazaar.

Please visit our website [www.mosaicfest.com](http://www.mosaicfest.com) for more information