

**MEDIA RELEASE****Thursday, February 15, 2018****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****JUNO recognized artists perform in Barrie as part of Black History Month**

(Barrie, ON) Two JUNO recognized Canadian acts are bringing their talents to Barrie for a special performance as part of Black History Month that blends blues, roots and R&B genres. The City of Barrie Theatres presents *An Evening with Digging Roots and Dione Taylor & The Backsliderz* happening Wednesday, February 28. The venue has been changed to The Five Points Theatre (1 Dunlop Street W.) to accommodate a special panel discussion on the contributions of black women in Barrie.

"The City of Barrie is thrilled to welcome two of Canada's finest home-grown artists to our city for this unforgettable performance," said Karen Dubeau, Director of the Creative Economy Department. "Bringing together *Digging Roots*' modern twist on traditional Indigenous music and Dione Taylor's original songs inspired by the journeys of Black Canadians, this is a truly unique performance that reflects the history and diversity of Canada."

Digging Roots features musical partners Raven Kanatakt and ShoShona Kish who have made Barrie their home since 2000. Their five-piece indie band brings global-blues infused songs and audience 'round dances' rooted in Indigenous tradition with modern aesthetics to their performances. While all three of their albums were nominated for a JUNO Award, the band won the JUNO for Aboriginal Album of the Year in 2010 for their album *We Are*.

Dione Taylor's music focuses on telling stories about faith and perseverance, and educating listeners about the journeys of Black Canadians who followed the Underground Railroad to find freedom in Canada. Born and raised in Saskatchewan, the jazz singer-songwriter has performed across the United States, Canada and Asia for audiences that have included the President of the United States and Queen Elizabeth II. Taylor's first album, *Open Your Eyes*, was nominated for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year at the JUNO Awards of 2005. Taylor will team up with the Backsliderz to deliver a soulful and powerful performance.

In celebration of Black History Month, there will be a special panel discussion during intermission on the contributions of black women to the Barrie community. The panel will be moderated by Shelly Skinner and features business and community leaders who will share their experiences and answer questions from the audience.

Tickets are available at www.barrie.ca/TheatreTickets

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