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Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival's Big Picnic set to be a magical day

It's happening, rain or shine!

Elana Shepert / Vancouver is Awesome
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The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival will host The Big Picnic under Queen Elizabeth Park's majestic cherry blossom canopy this April. Photograph By THE VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL INSTAGRAM

The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival will host The Big Picnic under Queen Elizabeth Park's majestic cherry blossom canopy this April.

The annual event invites participants to bring their own mat or purchase one of the Festival's connecting Petal Mats, bring a picnic basket and make some new friends under the beautiful blossoms.

The activity is based on the Japanese tradition of hanami – a practice that involves sitting under the cherry blossoms and contemplating their beauty. The tradition began over a thousand years ago when aristocrats would write poems about their beauty.

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The event will also include live performances, family activities, and food trucks. Laura Yu Wu performs the Guzheng (Chinese harp) and vocals. She's participated in many performances with Shanghai Philharmonic directed by famous conductors Tuhan Si and Yufeng Zheng in China.

The North Shore Celtic Ensemble will also bring their own original compositions which draw on Celtic, classical, jazz and folk influences and are blended with creative arrangements of more traditional Celtic tunes. There will also be the breathing Chinese Fan Dance, as well as Kiyoshi Iio, who plays the handpan. Handpan is one of the music instruments that original one was invented in Switzerland in 2000 and is also called 'Hang' or 'Hang Drum'.

Chibi Taki will also take place during the picnic. The first children's taiko ensemble in Canada, Chibi Taiko was formed in the fall of 1993 with the goal of passing this unique and dynamic performing art on to the next generation of Asian Canadians.

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Are you ready to picnic under the beautiful cherry blossoms at Queen Elizabeth Park? Join us at The Big Picnic presented by TD Bank Group on April 13, noon to 3pm. We cannot wait to see you there!

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The Big Picnic

When: Rain or Shine! April 13 from 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Where: Queen Elizabeth Park's cherry blossom canopy – parking closest to the venue will be reserved for vendors. the event suggests two paid parking lots:

At the top of the park, near the conservatory, access off Midlothian Ave.
Near the tennis courts, access off W 37th Ave.

Cost: Free