



**A dynamic community that celebrates  
and supports the Arts**

Red Deer Arts Council and Red Deer Public Library  
are excited to present

**How Does Your Garden Grow?  
Mixed Media by Margaret Hall**

running until January 6 to February 27, 2022  
in the Red Deer Arts Council's Kiwanis Gallery.



December  
Mixed Media, 2021  
Margaret Hall wearing her creation.  
Photograph by Dean Ward of High View Photo



July  
Mixed Media, 2021  
Margaret Hall wearing her creation.  
Photograph by Dean Ward of High View Photo

**Join the Red Deer Arts Council as a member for 2022!**  
Use the next page to become a member or go to our  
website and join (and even donate!) there!  
<https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/join-the-arts-council/become-member>

**Art Speaks Workshops**

January 26th, 2021  
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Location: Virtual (Pre-registration required)  
Artist-Speaker Series  
**My Five Year Old Draws Like That:  
The Invisible British Influence in  
Landscape Art We All Experience  
with Megan Bylsma**  
ATB Free to attend thanks to ATB Search for Arts and Culture  
mag  
Red Deer Arts Council  
Business/Arts Red Deer

**First Friday Red Deer Opening  
January 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Library / Gallery Viewing Hours:**

Mon – Thurs: 10 am – 8 pm  
Fri: 12 pm – 5 pm  
Sat: 10 am – 3 pm | Sun: Closed



## 2022 Membership Application Form

Individual \$30.00

Group/Organization \$50.00

- Individual & Group Memberships are renewable annually on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Donations are greatly appreciated, and Charitable Tax Receipts provided for gifts over \$20.
- There is a small additional credit card service fee for online registrations.
- You may send your membership fee by E-Mail Money Transfer to reddeerartscouncil@gmail.com.

**Member Number:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(office use only)

**ONLY websites and email addresses will be posted to website unless otherwise requested.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Representative's name, if different from name above: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am/We are:** *(please check all that apply)*

Performing Artist(s)

Literary Artist(s)

Visual Artist(s)

Organization

Cultural

Arts Supporter / Creative Community Member

Sub-Category = \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., dance/pottery/poetry/heritage)

**I/We would like to learn more/be involved:** *(please check all that apply)*

Board Member

Volunteer - wherever I am needed!

Visual Arts Committee

Gallery Operations Committee

Programming Committee

Performing Arts Committee

Literary Arts Committee

Culture & Heritage Committee

Communications Committee

Scholarships/Awards Committee

Finance Committee (Budget)

Sponsorship Committee

Plus-One Committee

Guitarz for Kidz Committee

Please initial: I give permission to the Red Deer Arts Council to add my / my organization's **Name**  and contact information to the member directory on its website, including the **Phone** , **Email** , **Website**  (please check to allow.) Visit the [www.reddeerartscouncil.ca](http://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca) for more information.

Please keep a copy of this form for your records. You can deliver this form with your membership payment by cheque or cash to the Red Deer Arts Council (in person or by mail.) You may also register online at [www.reddeerartscouncil.ca](http://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca) with a credit card or send an email money transfer to [reddeerartscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:reddeerartscouncil@gmail.com). Thank You!

Charitable Registration 107878761 RR 0001. We acknowledge the generous support of:

### For Office Use Only

Fee \$	Donation \$
Cash <input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> #
E-Transfer <input type="checkbox"/>	Credit <input type="checkbox"/>

*Creativity understood.*



**Business / Arts**



## Six decades of living define Mike Szabo's folk music

If you listen long enough to enough people, you can't help but have something interesting to say.

"I've always been a quiet guy. I've always been a listener," says Red Deer singer/songwriter Mike Szabo.



*Mike Szabo's first album, **Take My Heart**, has been submitted by his producer Heath West to the Juno's for consideration – a first for West.*

A late bloomer in the music industry, Szabo has been listening to, watching and experiencing six decades of life happening, which has led to a profusion of thoughtful music. Since getting serious about it a few years ago, he's written more than 50 songs on subjects from love to death, raising children to (almost) losing children, immigrant experiences, living in Alberta, work crises, health crises – subjects as obscure as fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Listening has also helped Szabo write the tunes. He can structure a folk song in a couple of days, relying on instincts from decades of playing artists like Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt.

"I know what a good song sounds like, because I've been attracted to them my whole life," he says. "When I write, I have that cadence."

So what took so long? He's been playing guitar since his teens, with countless campfire performances – although with other people's songs. Perhaps part of the delay was the trauma from entering a talent contest in his early 20s, which he notes obliquely were his party days.

"I failed miserably. Like, it was embarrassing, literally."

The catalyst for his career change happened just over five years ago, when his 28-year marriage ended. His nephew, Justin Rindal, called him out to his studio for some "guitar therapy," then coaxed Szabo onto open-mike stages as the duo Woodstuck. He recalls one night seeing local musicians Curtis Phagoo and Levi Cuss – now friends with whom he's performed – and deciding that night on his new career.

"I was just enthralled."

In 2019 Szabo quit his 24-year career selling RVs to concentrate on music – although he has returned as shop foreman to help support his recording habit. He released his first album, *Take My Heart*, in 2020 and is planning a second album soon with his producer, Heath West.

The local music community has been extremely supportive, Szabo says, and he even found his new wife, Katy, at the open mikes. A country music performer who has recorded in Nashville, Katy has occasionally performed with Szabo, and is unsurprisingly supportive of his turn toward music.

Szabo's been getting positive support from listeners too. He's had impassioned and touching responses to his songs that have converged with others' experiences, even if album sales aren't high yet.

"I don't want to be rich and famous," he says, "I just want to be able to support myself with music now, and I believe that's possible."

Music isn't the only art in his life, though. More than a decade ago, Szabo picked up a paint brush and became addicted. Many lessons later, he became an impressionist painter. In January he and his daughter Elyse Szabo will have a joint art and stage show at the Velvet Olive. Elyse had already done that solo when she was a teenager, with Mike following suit more recently.

"I was kind of following in my daughter's footsteps."

Now they have the exciting opportunity to do so together and share the same stage.

"Hopefully not for the last time," he says.

*(Follow Mike on Spotify via QR code.)*



*Mike Szabo has performed on numerous stages around Central Alberta and hopes to tour folk clubs around Alberta in the next year. (Photo contributed by Robin Byrnes.)*

