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Weather



TODAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 1
LOW OF -3



TUESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF 2
LOW OF 4



WEDNESDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUDY

HIGH OF 5
LOW OF 1



THURSDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUDY

HIGH OF 6
LOW OF 3



FRIDAY:
LIGHT RAIN

HIGH OF 9
LOW OF 2

Jocsan Rivera and his handpan gives the sound of music a whole new meaning



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

Jocsan Rivera started his business, PANacea Sonora in 2015. An artist, musician and unique craftsman, Jocsan makes handpan instruments. What is a handpan you might ask? Handpan is a term for a group of musical instruments that are subset of the steel pan. The basic form of a handpan consists of two metal half-shells glued together, a centre tone field surrounded by a circle of at least seven tone fields on the upper side and an opening in the bottom side. The shaping of the tone fields and the tuning differ between makers, materials and methods used.

“From the moment I heard the handpan played I was fascinated and intrigued by it,” explained Jocsan Rivera. “Until I started making handpans I was not aware of what the fabrication process entailed nor how complex it is,” he shared. “A balance between the physical manipulation, mathematical calculation and musical aspect, the instrument becomes a labour of love and joy.” The handpan fabrication process requires multiple firings with adjustments and fine tuning done after each firing. The manipulation of the metal, the ability to attain the same tone over and over creates a mesmerizing sound. Rivera’s workshop, located in Dunham, Quebec finds the wall space adorned with the tools this master craftsman needs to create an instrument of lasting quality and endurance that is sure to bring joy and creativity to the purchaser. The tools used, the process and the sound emanating from the instrument once it is finished is nothing less than fascinating. The complexity in its creation and the time invested makes one appreciate Rivera’s talent even more.

Originally from Chile and residing in Canada for over thirty years, trilingual Rivera who originally studied in physics and then in music found that his passion for the handpan allowed him to combine his studies in this unique way. A handpan is an investment not only for those with the desire to learn and connect with a musical instrument but also provides the opportunity to own a finely crafted, locally created work of art. “I am often asked why I continue to make handpans,” says Rivera. “I sometimes ask myself this question,” he adds. “The answer is always the same. When I see the joy the instrument brings to the owner from the moment I hand it to them, I am reminded of why I am a handpan craftsman; the reason is clear.” Prices vary per instrument depending on the number of notes and other particulars involved in its creation. Jocsan Rivera is a rare gem living in our midst. His passion for music and the hand pan are equally matched by his humble genius, gentle mannerisms and his love of the land and nature.



Jocsan Rivera delivering a hand pan workshop recently in Glen Sutton

COURTESY

Ben by Daniel Shelton

