

GlobalFest back with a bang

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Music isn't the only universal language — this year's International Fireworks Competition (Aug. 24 - Sept. 1) will show that fireworks also speak across cultures.

Teams from the U.K., Italy, Hong Kong and Spain will compete in the competition in a lineup announced Tuesday, a part of Calgary's annual GlobalFest which this year will be part of Alberta's centennial celebrations.

"Everybody loves fireworks. It brings out the child in all of us," says competition director Martin Landy. "It's the fire, it's the noise, it's the feeling of the concussions in your chest. It brings out a lot. It's universal, it speaks every language."

Pyrotechnical artist Alain Carbonneau is creating the Italian show on behalf of Parente Fireworks in Italy. In coming months he will work on combining music with the right effects for a spectacular show.

"Competitions interest us in general but to perform here in Calgary for the first time we're very excited, first of all, because the venue is very nice," he says, referring to Elliston Park. "The companies that come this year are very big, very renowned, so every company will try to bring a very big show."