

# PRESS RELEASE

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## INTERNATIONAL CELLO FESTIVAL of CANADA Preview at The Forks

**WINNIPEG – May 19, 2011** – The International Cello Festival of Canada gave a sneak peek today at The Forks with a free short program concert and remarks from the festival organizers. The festival, which will run **from June 15-19 in venues throughout Winnipeg**, is the first of its kind ever held in Canada.

A cello quartet featuring Yuri Hooker, Andrea Bell, Meran Currie-Roberts and Rafael Hoekman provided free lunchtime entertainment for passersby, the first in what promises to be a remarkable series of events for music lovers.

Presented as a part of the Winnipeg Cultural Capital of Canada (WCCC) celebration, the Festival is organized by Agassiz Music Inc., an organization well-known in Winnipeg for their annual Chamber Music Festival. ARTS FOR ALL has been the theme of the whole WCCC year, and the cello festival is no exception. With free events in public places, masterclasses with renowned musicians, a robust young performers program and a cello repertoire featuring everything from the masters to Metallica, this festival offers something for everyone.

Under the direction of Artistic Director Paul Marleyn, this exciting event will gather approximately 60 cellists to participate in solo recitals and in performance of concertos with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and a gala presentation co-produced with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Local, national and international artists from as far away as China, Russia and Sweden will be in Winnipeg performing alongside the home-grown talent throughout this amazing event. Yegor Djachkov, Denise Djokic, Shauna Rolston, Jian Wang, Natalia Gutman and Frans Helmerson are just a few of the names fans of cello music might recognize.

Ticket information can be found at the Winnipeg Cultural Capital of Canada website [www.artsforall.ca](http://www.artsforall.ca), McNally Robinson Booksellers, or by calling 475-1779.

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