

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Alix Sobler, Communications and Marketing Coordinator
Email: alix@winnipegarts.ca
Address: 103–110 Princess Street Winnipeg, MB R3B 1K7
Telephone: (204) 943-7668
Facsimile: (204) 942-8669

For Immediate Release: July 21, 2010



The River Barge Festival

A brand new festival wraps up Winnipeg's festival season from August 25-29

WINNIPEG – July 21, 2010 – An incredible line-up of local and national performers will wrap up a busy summer for Winnipeg festival goers. In its first year, the River Barge Festival will host over thirty music and performing arts acts on a floating stage at The Forks.

As part of the Winnipeg Cultural Capital of Canada 2010 ARTS FOR ALL program, the inaugural River Barge Festival will be presented free of charge and feature a diverse array of singers, bands, and performing arts groups including Francophone, Aboriginal and young artists.

“This festival is the celebration of Winnipeg as the cultural hub of Canada,” says Carol Phillips, Executive Producer of the WCCC 2010 program. “There will be something for everyone, and everyone is invited.”

Included in the line-up are singer-songwriters Romi Mayes, Greg MacPherson and Christine Fellows. Manitoba Theatre Centre will be presenting their family-friendly show *The History of Manitoba from the Beginning of Time to the Present in 45 Minutes* and there will be a family day featuring Al Simmons, Fred Penner and Rocki Rolletti. On Friday, August 27th there will be a gala performance with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and local favourite Sierra Noble, and many more performances are planned.

“We are excited to see that barge on the water, and performers lighting up the stage,” said Paul Jordan, Chief Operating Officer at The Forks Renewal Corporation. “People have been meeting at The Forks for thousands of years, and it only makes sense for us to celebrate Winnipeg as the Cultural Capital of Canada right here on these shores.”

The Cultural Capitals program is a competitive, federally funded program through Canadian Heritage. The River Barge Festival was proposed as part of the winning application made by the Winnipeg Arts Council on behalf of the City of Winnipeg.

For more information visit www.artsforall.ca.

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The River Barge Festival Performers
August 25-29, 2010
The Forks
Free!

The River Barge Festival will feature a diverse line-up of local and national favourites. More details can be found at www.artsforall.ca

Al Simmons

Al Simmons' one-man, multi-prop, music-filled, off the wall performances have elevated audiences world-wide to collective giggles and all-out guffaws. At once childlike in its simplicity and sophisticated in its execution, Al's humour touches a responsive chord in people of every age.

Chic Gamine

Chic Gamine use their voices as instruments, effortlessly launching into intricate string arrangements, bass-heavy rhythm sections and lush harmonies. These multifariously talented songwriters create a sound that resonates with soul, passion and peculiar brand of humour that reels audiences in and leaves them begging for more.

Christine Fellows

Christine Fellows is a singer/songwriter who tours internationally, creates scores for film, television, modern dance and experimental video. She has also received critical acclaim for her work as a multidisciplinary collaborator.

The Crooked Brothers

This trio blends timeless country classic sounds, backporch blues and stomping scrapyard funk. Their sound is beautiful and warm, but with dirt under its fingernails.

D. Rangers

D.Ranger music is the spiritual ancestry of the hillbilly roots of Rock and Roll. The D.Rangers approach their craft with an edgy, punk attitude, without losing any reverence for the traditions that started it all.

Darrellyne Bickel

Darrellyne Bickel is a Metis Singer/Songwriter/Musician from The Pas, Manitoba whose reputation and repertoire are growing daily. In 2009 she made it to the top six on YTV's "The Next Star" reality show, and took home Minister Eric Robinson's Most Outstanding Manitoban Award.

Digging Roots

Their most recent album, "WE ARE", exemplifies Digging Roots' almost indefinable sound...somewhere blurred between the lines of roots, rock, hip hop, and blues.

Flying Fox and Hunter-Gatherers

Flying Fox and the Hunter Gatherers are a sextet of classically trained musicians that have crafted their own musical niche of operatic indie jazz. Flying Fox and the Hunter Gatherers have a stylistic diversity that appeals to indie popsters, big-band lovers and folksters alike.

Fred Penner

Fred Penner is a two-time Juno Award winning family entertainer. On the stage and on his CBC/Nickelodeon show *Fred Penner's Place* which ran for almost two decades, his music and comedy have enchanted little ones and delighted their parents as well.

Greg MacPherson

Greg MacPherson is a singer/songwriter who has distinguished himself as one of the most compelling and distinctive voices in Canadian independent rock.

Imaginary Cities

Imaginary Cities are Marti Sarbit and Rusty Matyas. In their own words: "We go crackle, crackle, thump and squawk... We are the music we love. We are a duo, but when we are alone together we are an orchestra."

Jazz on Wheels

The vision of Steve Kirby, director of jazz studies at the University of Manitoba's faculty of music, Jazz on Wheels features professional musicians performing for free from the back of a travelling "rolling stage."

J.C. Campbell & Tracy Bone

J.C. Campbell is a singer/songwriter who combines blues, country, and rock for a unique blend all his own. Tracy Bone is a Country Recording Artist who has performed all over the country, and was recently a 2010 Vancouver Olympics Entertainer.

Jessee Havey

Juno winner and Grammy nominee Jesse Havey has been performing all of her life. After five productive years as the lead vocalist of The Duhks, Havey is now performing solo and blazing her own musical path.

Johnny Cajun

Johnny Cajun has been spreading its hot blend of Cajun, Zydeco and Funk music ever since its inception in 2002. They bring a guarantee of great tunes with kickin' rhythms and sweltering solos, fired up with some spicy surprises that will make you move to the bayou groove!

Les Surveillantes

Les Surveillantes, the wry and forthcoming foursome from Winnipeg has enthralled audiences since the wintry nights of 2006. While a modern mix of bass, banjo and guitars provides the roots of their sound, their voices in harmony are the green leaves and flowers of their performance.

Luke Doucet

Former Manitoban Luke Doucet is a Rock 'n Roller with the heart of a poet, and his guitar skills have led him to work with the likes of Sarah McLachlan, Chantal Kreviazuk, and Blue Rodeo. As much a story-teller as he is musician, Luke Doucet draws on his personal histories and in his own words: "His palm is his family tree, and his fingers, spread wide as a web, are the means for his storytelling."

Manitoba Theatre Centre

MTC was Canada's first English-speaking regional theatre, and now presents over 250 performances annually for more than 150,000 theatre-lovers.

Matthew Contois

Originally from Grand Rapids, Manitoba, Matthew Contois started learning fiddling at age 12 in the Frontier Fiddling Program. He has participated in numerous competitions and square dances and now teaches the Frontier Fiddlers, as well as a fiddle program in Nelson House.

Rocki Rolletti

Manitoba's legendary party band leader for kids of all ages...from 1 to 101!

Papa Mambo

Winnipeg's Papa Mambo started out as a spirited party band and soon became recognized as one of the most skillful, exciting and important innovators in Canada's Latin music scene. This ensemble is made up of some of Winnipeg's most sought after musicians, and has always emphasized great playing and inspired arrangements.

Romi Mayes

Commonly referred to as the hardest working musician in Canada, Romi Mayes is a straight shooter with heart on your sleeve lyrics, edgy innuendo, and some serious guitar playing.

Sierra Noble

Sierra Noble breezes through Celtic, Bluegrass, Jazz, World beat and other styles of music with stunning ease on her fiddle, her breadth of experience in her 20 years of life is impressive. Her talent has taken her around the world to Asia, Europe and across North America.

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

Established in 1947, The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra is one of Winnipeg's most renowned cultural institutions. The WSO performs to over 100,000 audience members each year and more than 80 concerts from September to May.

Trio Bembe

Trio Bembe focuses on the Latin rhythms of Cuba, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Colombia, and Spain. Comprised of dynamic vocalist Amber Epp, award-winning percussionist Scott Senior, and popular Latin band-leader Rodrigo Muñoz (guitar, voice and percussion) Trio Bembe also performs music from the jazz idiom as well as original material.

More performers will be added. Find full bios and updates at www.artsforall.ca