

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra putting festival barge to the test

HOW many musicians does it take to tip a barge? We don't know, but the question will be put to the test tonight when the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs live at the River Barge festival at The Forks.

The WSO will take the stage on the much-buzzed-about floating barge on the Assiniboine River at 9 p.m., along with fiddling phenom Sierra Noble. The musicians will be surrounded by a specially designed light and mist show that will float over the river.

The symphony is just one of many

acts slated to take the barge-stage at the festival, which launched on Wednesday and continues through Sunday. Other acts on tap for the weekend include actors from the Manitoba Theatre Centre, family-friendly icon Fred Penner, and singer-songwriter Luke Doucet.

The party is being presented courtesy of Winnipeg's status as Canada's "Cultural Capital of Canada 2010" designation, a status awarded by the federal government that came complete with some spending cash. All shows are free of charge.