



MEDIA RELEASE

“2009 IlluminAqua Performers Announced”

For Immediate Release – Friday, May 29, 2009



Welland – The brand new amphitheatre backdrop is taking shape for the upcoming IlluminAqua Season and the Welland Recreational Canal Corp (WRCC) is pleased to officially announce the 2009 lineup of performers taking the stage as part of the Welland Recreational Waterway’s Arts & Culture Series ~ IlluminAqua.

IlluminAqua, a Top 100 Festival in Ontario award winner, will open the season on Friday, June 12, 2009 with the Destino Tenors. Making a rare return visit to the IlluminAqua stage, the Destino Tenors’ popularity last year led organizers to have them kick off the 2009 season and the new Merritt Park Amphitheatre. From this high note, performances will take place every two weeks on Friday evenings for the duration of the season, with the second production falling on June 26th.

June 26th will see an IlluminAqua performance that hits two chords: a celebration of St. Jean Baptiste Day with Norbert Lepage et le clan d'Estin and Chakidor, two renowned Francophone artists and followed up with a showcase of successful local recording artist Justin Hines; a truly remarkable talent.

The season continues its ramp up featuring a double bill on July 10th with three time Juno Award winning singer songwriter David Francey taking the stage followed by the powerful country artist Kathleen Edwards who has recently returned from Afghanistan entertaining our Canadian Troops. This celebration of song and story-telling is sure to please all audiences.

The July 24th IlluminAqua marks a celebration of the Niagara Music Awards while serving as the kick off concert of the award winning Canadian Biker Build Off. Showcasing recent winners of Niagara Music Awards, the evening will see local artists Sukkapunch and Street Pharmacy take the stage followed by the powerful rock vocals of The Joys.

The high energy builds into a fantastic evening of east coast music on August 7th with the CBC Galaxy Rising Star Award Winner, the Tom Fun Orchestra. This rising band, that ironically uses ‘orchestra’ due sheerly to its size, is comprised of nine artists coming together to create an energetic, chaotic-yet-melodic sound; it is a marvel to watch and listen.

The sensational season continues in August with a celebration of blues and jazz with the 16 year old sensation Nikki Yanofsky on August 21st. Nikki has wowed crowds of 100,000+ at the Ottawa and Montreal International Jazz Festivals. Canadian jazz legend, pianist Oliver Jones raved of Nikki “...jazz is alive and well in Canada!” She is a young phenom.

Friday of the Labour Day Weekend, September 4, marks the last concert of the IlluminAqua Season, with critically acclaimed, Canadian powerhouse family, Leahy. This renowned group of eight brothers and sisters has been wowing audiences for years and is sure to be a crowd pleaser to celebrate the close of the IlluminAqua Season.

The WRCC is pleased to offer the 2009 IlluminAqua Season as free admission events and will be looking to audiences to support the series through donations and the purchase of *Series Supporter* pins. The pins, on-sale at Seaway Mall Customer Service and participating merchants, are \$40 each and provide Supporters access to a reserved seating section in the Amphitheatre and other specials both on & off-site in recognition of a contributor’s support. Your \$40 donation works out to less than \$6 a show, and supporters receive special benefits at local area merchants that have signed on to support the Arts & Culture Series. IlluminAqua gates open at 6:30 pm and opening acts begin at approximately 7:30pm.

Stephen Fischer, Creative Director of IlluminAqua and Business & Operations Manager of the WRCC, suggested, “The range of musical talent we’ve been able to put together is in a word, *stellar*. Each show will take you on a different musical journey and deliver a celebration of Canadianna and Canadian artists at their finest!” Bob Mahler, WRCC Chair, stated, “It is a proud moment to attract this calibre of talent to the IlluminAqua stage and to the City of Welland.”

Information is available at www.illuminacqua.com. Email us at info@illuminacqua.com or call 905-735-1700 ext 2777

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