

“ILLuminAqua 2011 ~ Performers Announced”

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Welland – The Welland Recreational Canal Corp (WRCC) is pleased to officially announce the lineup of performing stars for ILLuminAqua ~ The Waterway’s 2011 Arts & Culture Series. The 5th Anniversary Season is highlighted with five different genres, spanning up-and-coming stars and JUNO and Grammy Award winning international recording artists.

ILLuminAqua, recognized as one of the Top 100 Festivals in Ontario, will open the season on Friday, May 20th with Steven Page. Steven Page’s distinctive voice is among the most instantly recognizable in Canadian music. “Kicking off our 5th Anniversary season with one of the most recognized talents in Canada was important to the Canal Corporation and Steven Page fits that billing and beyond”, stated Bob Mahler, Canal Corporation Chair. From this, performances will take place Friday evenings for the duration of the season, on June 17, July 8, August 5 and September 2.

June 17th will see the Canada’s East Coast showcased with Matt Andersen. Matt Andersen has a larger than life showmanship that has been earning him a fervent and steadfast audience wherever he graces the stage. Matt’s sprawling blues, roots and rock music hybrid with his sorrowing and incredibly soulful voice combined with astonishing guitar-playing has sparked a phenomenal buzz on Canada’s East Coast.

On July 8th ILLuminAqua welcomes the Niagara Symphony and special guest Elton Lammie back to the main stage. The Niagara Symphony were the first performers to play on the ILLuminAqua stage in 2007 and Elton Lammie, winner of A&E’s Bathroom Diva’s, wowed audiences during his debut on the ILLuminAqua stage in 2009. “Their return will be the delight of the 5th Anniversary Season of ILLuminAqua”, suggested Stephen Fischer, ILLuminAqua Creative Director, “people still remark about how incredible each of these two performers were; the power, the brilliance and energy, truly transcending moments for Welland and for ILLuminAqua.”

The star host of CBC’s Radio 2’s weekend morning program, Molly Johnson, will be performing on August 5. Molly Johnson’s voice evokes the aura of dark, smoky jazz clubs of a bygone era. It speaks to an emotional depth that few vocalists in any genre ever reach. This JUNO award winning artist will delight crowds with humour, joy, sassiness and, of course, love.

Friday of the Labour Day Weekend, September 2, marks the closing concert of the 2011 ILLuminAqua Season with Canadian fiddling sensation, Ashley MacIsaac. Alternatively considered a rebel, taking the old fiddling conventions in newfangled directions they were never meant to go, or a champion, re-forging and recreating Celtic music with an updated, mass-appeal quality, MacIsaac has unarguably put his own spin on the sounds he was brought up with. Closing the season with a fiddle sensation in recognition of a sound the crowds love so much.

The WRCC is pleased to offer this range of talent again and bring the 2011 - 5th Anniversary Season of ILLuminAqua to even new levels of entertainment. ILLuminAqua Seasons Tickets, which include tickets to all five (5) concerts, series button, Niagara Wine Tasting at each show, and entry into draws for a dinner for four (4) and 2012 Season’s Tickets are on sale now for \$75, plus applicable taxes and handling fees. This incredible package is valued at more than \$150 and will be limited to the first 400 people. Individually priced tickets to shows are also available in advance and these general admission tickets range from \$18 to \$28, plus applicable taxes and handling fees, and are available online at www.illumin aqua.com.

Shows begin at 8pm each Friday, with gates to the Welland Amphitheatre, at 115 King St. Welland, opening at 7pm. As in past years, overflow seating will be available on the west bank of the Waterway. Information is available at www.illumin aqua.com. Email us at info@illumin aqua.com or call 905-735-1700 ext 2777 for a recorded schedule.

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