

MEDIA RELEASE

“IlluminAqua 2010 ~ Performers Announced”

For Immediate Release – Thursday, March 25, 2010

Welland – The Welland Recreational Canal Corp (WRCC) is pleased to officially announce the 2010 lineup of performers to take to the stage and fill the new waterside Welland Amphitheatre with music as part of the Waterway’s Arts & Culture Series ~ IlluminAqua 2010.

IlluminAqua, recognized as one of the Top 100 Festivals in Ontario, will open the season on Friday, May 21 with the powerful tenor, Mark Masri. The popularity of tenors and the Popera genre with audiences over the last two years has led organizers to ensure to have a tenor in 2010. This is the second time a tenor performance will open the IlluminAqua series in the new waterside Welland Amphitheatre. Masri voice has the power to melt the hardest concert-goer; with passionate vocals and emotional delivery that enchants listeners. From this, performances will take place Friday evenings for the duration of the season, on June 18, July 9, August 6 and September 3.

June 18th will see the popular return of Canadian folk star David Francey. A heartwarming fan favourite from 2009, Francey’s return marks a new album release to share with IlluminAqua revelers. Francey, a five time Juno Award winning singer songwriter, weaves an astounding melody around storytelling, captivating words and imagery, Canadianna, culture and music. With a full accompaniment in 2010 the David Francey show is sure to continue to increase the acceptance and the popularity of Canadian Folk Music as mainstream.

The July 9th IlluminAqua production marks a celebration of iconic rock culture with the award winning songwriter’s Hall of Fame inductee Don Maclean taking the floating stage. Armed with a legendary assortment of hits, by far, the song that is considered one of the 5 Songs of the Century, ‘*American Pie*’ will be a fan favourite. Thirty years later, Maclean continues to tour the world and release new material. In 2009 his latest studio album, “Addicted to Black”, was released to fan acclaim.

The celebration of legendary contributors, singers and songwriters doesn’t stop there. On August 6th, the south of the border legend is followed by our own Canadian singer songwriting legend, Andy Kim. He found fame at just 16 years old when he wrote ‘*Rock Me Gently*’ and ‘*Sugar, Sugar*’, one of Billboard’s “Greatest Songs of All Time.” A true Canadian son, Andy has been awarded the country’s top industry honor twice, the JUNO Award for outstanding achievements in the record industry, as well as the “Indie Award” for Favorite Solo Artists in 2005. Over his epic career, Andy has sold over 30 million records and will release ‘HAPPEN AGAIN’ in 2010, an album of 10 brand new songs, each true to his passionate belief that “those who chase their dreams succeed only through sheer determination and a steadfast belief in the power of the individual to influence a multitude by speaking from the heart.”

Friday of the Labour Day Weekend, September 3, marks the last concert of the IlluminAqua 2010 Season, with critically acclaimed, award winning, heart stopping, Natalie MacMaster. This renowned artist is a true piece of Canadianna and has been wowing audiences for years. Her signature sound has resonated with world audiences through 10 albums, multiple gold sales figures and 27 years; numerous Juno and East Coast Music Awards;; the Order Of Canada – and a reputation as one of Canada’s most captivating performers. She has the respect and admiration of the crème de la crème of top-notch musicians and is sure to capture the audience’s hearts as we close the IlluminAqua Season.

The WRCC is pleased to offer this range of talent again and bring the 2010 IlluminAqua Season to even new levels of entertainment. Tickets, in advance, for amphitheatre and bleacher seating, general admission, are \$10 per ticket, plus applicable taxes, and will be available online at www.illuminacqua.com and at Seaway Mall Customer Service. In response to season passes requests, the WRCC is offering 500 IlluminAqua Seasons Passes, which include tickets to all five (5) concerts, evening samplings of award winning Niagara wines and an IlluminAqua seat cushion for just \$50, plus applicable taxes (an over \$90 value).

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.

Stephen Fischer, Creative Director of IlluminAqua and Executive Director of the WRCC, suggested, "The level of talent we've been able to amass is extraordinary. A celebration of genres, legends and award winning artists; married with some very, very exciting opening acts that are sure to leave IlluminAqua fans entranced with a new wave of talent!" IlluminAqua has seen an incredible increase in interest, requests, artist submissions and agency inquiries. 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; a credit to the work of our Executive Director, Stephen Fischer, Councillor Mike Belcastro and friend to IlluminAqua, Mr. Jeff Rogers of Swell Music."

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

– 30 –

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